

THE MIDDLE EAST: A PROMISE OF PEACE AT LAST



Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 13, 1993 \$2.50

DAVID
CRONENBERG:
A DIRECTOR'S
OBSESSION

READY, SET, GO!

The party leaders
face a grumpy
electorate





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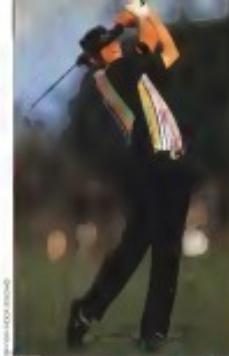
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LETTERS

Star wars

I was touched to read your cover story of the CBC's "struggles to survive in a 200-channel universe" ("Prune time wars," Aug. 30). While this advice may be lost on an organization that has worked on the public test for 57 years, the way to survival is to produce programming that people want to watch.

*Robert Sennett,
Edmonton, Alta.*



Peter Mansbridge and Patti Walker of 'Prune Time News' survived

My employer, Iban Broadcasting, also struggled to survive in a 200-channel universe. But unlike the CBC, we do what we can't afford almost 11 billion in annual government subsidies, an important detail you failed to include in your article.

*Dan Nyman,
Stony Creek, Ont.*

When the time slot for sports superseded the time slot for news, our owner knew three days to day what time *Prune Time News* would be on air. Viewers need it and will not put up with the aggravation of trying to switch gears from one to CTV because this break slot is dependable.

*Neale Beaumont,
Gatineau, Que.*

cbc Radio is apparently the best in the world. It is putting my tiny station originally cannot be translated in the visual.

*Christopher Day,
Massapequa, N.Y.*

Good with the bad

What is expressed in "Consumed with children" (Letters, Aug. 23) does not surprise me—and yet disturbs me. If the couple in your article have no need for

*Mary Woodland,
Vancouver*

The hard place

As a Canadian living abroad, I was interested to read your Aug. 23 special report on Newfoundland ("Can the youngest province be saved?"). The time is past due for an economic restructuring that eliminates oil to fishermen whose jobs will never return to them unless fish hold out prospect of profitability. Reopenings with the same of the Atlantic and Prairie provinces. Benefits would include a cut in duplicate government programs, a reduction in the number of dying industries. Replacement industries, including those in high technology and tourism, should follow. If reparation and recovery can be overcome, this country's potential can finally be realized.

*John D. Reeves,
Freight, Texas*

"Can the youngest province be saved?" From what?

*Howard Desser,
Coley's Point, Nfld.*

First women

I am writing to correct some information in your editorial ("The politics of gender" July 23), where you said that Nova Scotia New Democrat Helen MacDonald was the first female to be elected party leader in Canada and British Columbia's Pat Johnson was the first woman to become premier. That distinction actually belongs to Shelly Watson of the Yukon who was elected leader of the Yukon Territorial Progressive Conservative Party in September 1978. Watson, however, lost her seat in the elections on Nov. 25 of that year. But as leader of the minority party, she was technically the territorial equivalent of a provincial premier until Dec. 8, 1980 when she resigned and was replaced by Chris Pearson.

*Dale Stabin,
President, Yukon Party
Whitehorse*

Letters may be condensed. Please supply name, address and telephone number. Letters sent to the editor become the property of Maclean's magazine. Address: Maclean's Editor, 277 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5J 2E7. Or fax: (416) 595-7750.

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Holly Cole, *Support*

For me it goes back to when I was a kid. I've always been close friends with animals. Because we always had animals.

My horse, Andy, was my soulmate and confidant. I think the reason that

obsession and my whole life for those years before I got into music. I guess you can say I watched obsession.

Now he lives happily on an island off the coast of Nova Scotia with a couple

How I See Obsession.

girls latch on to horses so much is because when you're a kid, you're powerless. And when you're a kid and a girl, you're even more powerless. So you feel empowered when you have a horse because it's this big animal you have control over. And no one else has more control over it because it's your horse and it knows you. Even my parents were afraid of him.

I don't have him anymore. I rode and jumped competitively from age 10 to 17 in Nova Scotia. He was my absolute

of true Maritime eccentricity. They live in a castle they built themselves and every year they build more onto it. They're the only ones on the island, except for their 52 cats - and Andy.

The incredible thing about animals is that they don't judge you in the same way people do. They don't care about your failures and successes. It's pure, unconditional love.

I've always felt that you should just let animals go. Not give them too many rules. You know, just like people.

BRADDOCK OPTICAL
HOW PEOPLE SEE



We have seen the enemy—and it is us

BY CHARLES GORDON

Before election fever completely overtakes us, it's worth a minute to ponder the biggest problem our political system faces: It is us. It is not unemployment, the deficit, free trade, the Constitution or the environment. It is us. We are selfish, angry and inconsistent. It is us. We are selfish, angry and inconsistent. It is us. We are selfish, angry and inconsistent.

You never know what we will do tomorrow. And if you know that, you don't know what we'll do the day after that. If you are prepared for office, you can't be sure the premise that there will be this week will still be true at next week.

Some observers don't think this is as bad. They remember the days when we all voted the way our parents voted, which was the way their parents voted. Certain parts of the country always voted Liberal; others always voted Tory. It took something major to change it—something like John Diefenbaker or Pierre Trudeau. There was a suspicion that voters didn't think much in those days just voted the way they always did. But it was fine for the political parties. They didn't have to change their ideas every election; they didn't have to watch the public shifting steadily from one end to the other under what the voting would be called "soft Trudeau."

To understand why things have changed, take a walk around the nearest shopping centre and count the number of Florida Marlins shirts, Charlotte Hornets hats and San Jose Sharks jackets. Why are Canadians, who should be patriotic, so silent? Why don't they speak up? Why do Alberta fans and jackets of the Toronto Blue Jays, Montreal Canadiens and Vancouver Blues Brothers, passing around in the corners of these new American teams—boast louder now? Because they don't wear team logos now; we wear the latest fashions. The colours of the Marlins, the Colorado Rockies, those awful little purple and teal trousers, jerseys, fashion being the colour of the newest team. It's not that we're

Canadian voters are too concerned about special needs—the plight of whales, people who hate seat-belts, sufferers of eyestrain

or those voters. It's just that we like the new colors.

How would you like to be a politician and try to get the votes of people like us, people who wear the colors only of the newest tastes, who watch TV programs 12 seconds at a time, the snappier fashions strung in our imagines? People whose motto, whose guiding philosophy in politics, is in other areas of life is "What have you done for me lately?"

The "no" to our has done much for lately is not "no." Canadian. It is not, a westerner, a socialist, a man, a guy, a Leinenkugel's Canadian, a northern Nova Scotian, a winter center, a doctor, a pilot, an astronaut, a connoisseur, a laid-back vacation of summer evenings. Let a prime minister appear before us with a plan, a truly national policy, and we say "no" doesn't take account of our special needs, our special needs having to do with the plight of whales, trout, great children, adopted children, people who hate seat-belts, people who love seat-belts, sufferers of eyestrain, people from east to west oceans."

Thinking like this we are bound to be disappointed by public policy, and we are. We take our dissatisfaction on the part of voters and politicians. We are disengaged, alienated and disillusioned. Politics is no good, we say, and we refuse all participation in it, except to vote against anyone who won't endorse the entire program of our group. Needless to say we forget that there are people less fortunate than ourselves.

Political parties are aware of this. They take and employ all manner of broad-based mass persons, politicos and other practitioners of the black art. They use pseudo scientific methods like focus groups and mailing lists; they use buzzwords like "spin" and "change model." They go to the last extent which they can to gather and put the results at the head of it. Their job is also through advertising and media manipulation to inform whatever this week's grape is. Their effect is to change people's language.

A more subtle effect is to change people's thoughts and attitudes. By exploiting the competing demands of groups, the political parties accentuate our differences. The differences become larger and the demands from groups increase. Fearful of offending groups, the parties back away from proposals that might be controversial.

Political expediency is as old as politics, but this aspect of it may have begun around 1986, when five Liberals backed out of Joe Clark's Tories and rode public opinion to gasoline tax-free bills into office. Needless to say, no dramatic dip in the cost of gasoline accompanied the ensuing four years of Liberal rule, but the point was made: voters, particularly in the suburbs, were fickle and would vote their short-term interests if they could be shown what it was.

What we really need are ideas to inspire us, to challenge us, to demand sacrifices of us. But we are unlikely to see any. The backroom persons know us too well by now. They know that such ideas will be rejected because there is not enough of them for southern Manitoba, chipmunks, vegetarians and associations of recreational vehicle owners. Instead of working on international issues, the political press are telling polls and forming focus groups to find out ways in make us hate our opponents and vote against them.

However tragic, we cannot simply wash our hands of all this. If we think we can solve the nation's problems without politicians, we are wrong. The trouble is that we won't help them. Instead of taking political power, we should continue to work on international issues, the political press are telling polls and forming focus groups to find out ways in make us hate our opponents and vote against them.

The "no" to our has done much for lately is not "no." Canadian. It is not, a westerner, a socialist, a man, a guy, a Leinenkugel's Canadian, a northern Nova Scotian, a winter center, a doctor, a pilot, an astronaut, a connoisseur, a laid-back vacation of summer evenings. Let a prime minister appear before us with a plan, a truly national policy, and we say "no" doesn't take account of our special needs, our special needs having to do with the plight of whales, trout, great children, adopted children, people who hate seat-belts, people who love seat-belts, sufferers of eyestrain, people from east to west oceans."

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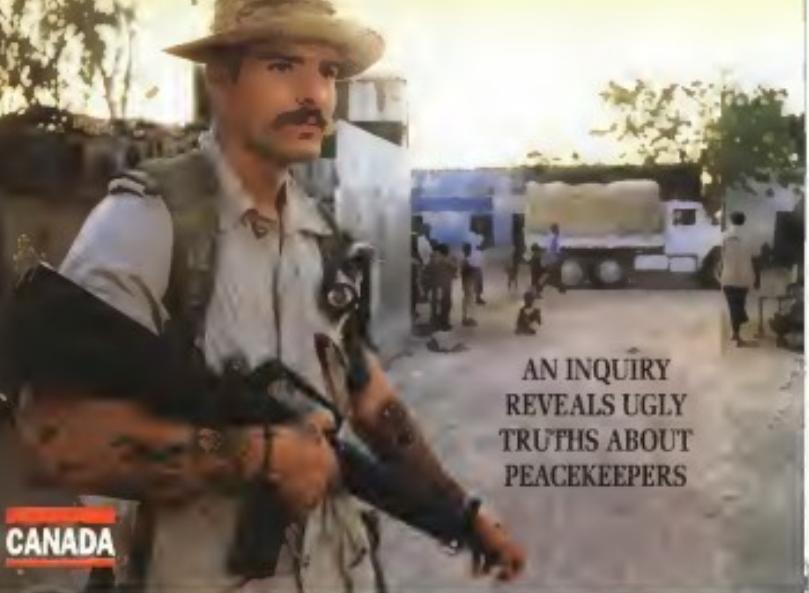
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CANADA

AN INQUIRY REVEALS UGLY TRUTHS ABOUT PEACEKEEPERS

McKey on duty in Belaf, Mun.: instances that up to a dozen Canadian peacekeepers held white supremacist views

TOO FEW GOOD MEN

The realities of peacekeeping have never matched the high-mindedness of the cause. Lester Pearson, who developed the idea, promised that peacekeepers would be "a moral force against aggression." On the ground, however, Canadian soldiers have frequently found themselves treated like uninvited intruders. In the name of peace they have been squat at, shot at and—on occasion—killed. They quickly learned that agreements worked out by diplomats in Paris or Geneva are often enforceable only by leading a few rounds or by employing threats and violence. But the Canadian public continues to see

peacekeeping as an honorable use of a limited military capability, a calculable role for a middle power eager for recognition on the international stage. After all, Canadians rewarded themselves that unusual peacekeeping. They just did not always want to know the details.

Last week, the public relations divide over peacekeeping widened slightly with the release of an interim report into this year's mission to Somalia. In operation already since October by the buying of criminal debts against four soldiers in the fighting days of a Somali war, the report by the Board of Inquiry, the Canadian airborne regiment Battle

Group, painted a picture of frustrated Canadian soldiers who thought that they had come to rescue Somalia from civil war and famine but were never asked. Thanks to Command that the people they were sent to help were killing them for food and other materials, the soldiers had to ration their "gratuitous" visits in "hostile" war, "guerrilla country," along with "warlords," "gangs." One soldier was even told by his board that he overreacted when he told his superior that he had launched a formal appeal of his removal.

From the outset, the Somalia operation suffered from poor planning. The Airborne had been on standby for several months in 1992 for another peacekeeping mission in

somewhat the Western Sahara, but the United Nations encountered difficulties arranging that force. The decision to reassign the Airborne to Somalia stemmed in part from the fact that its vehicles were already packed for the sand and mud of an operation which would be far easier. Instead, the Airborne was deployed to hostile territory in relatively peaceful northern Somalia, but at the last minute it was shifted in the less severe town of Belal, three. "This was not peacekeeping," said Col. John Foley, director, Infantry at Land Force Command Headquarters in St. Hubert, Que. "It was a small step short of going to war." Indeed, some soldiers testified at the inquiry that they had not been trained properly for the conditions they encountered in Somalia.

Still, the board praised the overall performance of the Canadians, citing their success in imposing order on Belal. However, because of the way it has been treated, the military faced racism against outsiders last week. "We've gone through a very painful and ugly episode of a couple of bad apples," said Joly. "But the feeling is, 'They, we, located our selves for eight months in shelling heat and then we came home to this kind of treatment?'"

Joly also pointed out that the Princess Patricia's Royal Canadian Regiment in Germany had used the same "Webel" for about 20 years, and that the Confederate flag has always been part of their team crest. "We made a mistake with that symbol but it was never intended to have obvious connotations more than the Chicago Blackhawks intended to be macho," said Joly, who served with the Panthers and the Airborne.

Nor were officers prepared to accept that the Forces are a bastion of racism, insisting that the use of epithets was benign. "When the atmosphere is jiving and you're being teased or shot at, you can't always be politically correct," said MacKenzie. "In Korea, we did not refer to the Oriental garrison from the North when the Communists came pouring over the 50th parallel."

The ugly realities of wifing have changed little over the years. The difference now is that Canadian forces are more likely to fight the international drug trade. On March 17, 1981, Princess Patricia's had enough of Canadian and British soldiers trying to raise a Korean communist Battalion. "We're a crew," the soldiers threw a grenade, killing three Koreans. But, says Joly, "we're still the only pro-prince regiment of the Canadian Forces." And MacKenzie, who took part in the decision to remove Macmillan, "The diplomatic problem was easier in our case. We thought we had argued it." Macmillan, now serving in Europe, told MacKenzie last week that he had launched a formal appeal of his removal.

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JUDGING THE JUDGES

Public Security Minister Douglas Lewis criticized Canadian judges for their sentencing. In a speech to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in Halifax, Lewis has left the police and the public with longer jet items for comment.

DRUG WARS

The developer and manufacturer of Apatite, used by about 250,000 Canadians to treat high blood pressure and congestive heart failure, is seeking an injunction to stop a generic drug company from selling its product in Canada. Merck Frosst, Canada Inc., of Montreal, claims that Terra Biased Apapte Inc. will violate Merck's Raynaud patent on Apatite, the main, widely prescribed drug in Canada. If Apatite is permitted to sell its form of the drug, Terra Biased says that its drug, which sells for about \$20 per 100 mg tablet, will dislodge before current drug patent laws come into effect late February.

BRIAN WALLACE and LINDA PISCHER-DIBBLE

READY, SET, GO!

With a federal election imminent, the voters are turned off politics—and the major party leaders

Mary Findlay is a 48-year-old citizen in Malton Bay, N.S., who usually supports the New Democratic Party.

"I'm interested in what's going to happen in the coming federal election," says Tollian, a Maritimes politico who considers himself a Progressive Conservative, but is also now involved. "The two are separated by geography and ideology, but they share a similar belief in equity and anti-warism about the election." There are probably millions like me," says Findlay, "who feel that it doesn't matter how politicians treat themselves or how many lies before they give away. Our lives go on and we don't pay any attention." Politics is even blander. "I don't like any politician very much. And I certainly won't pay attention to any of them until about two weeks before the vote."

If the pundits are correct, then

Campbell or Chrétien? Or just another bunch of pretenders?

Next week's unoffical close of summer will coincide with the start of more than six weeks of federal campaigning, culminating in an Oct. 25 election. But while the country's political leaders seem prepared to go at it with gusto, the public may be sick of most of its notters. After four years of Conservative rule, the public appetite for change is considerable—so too are poll shows that most Canadians are at least uncertain about the alternatives.

If the job of leader has yet to earn a pension for the country and simpler living for the future, every one of the men and women who are currently trying for the job of prime minister has so far failed the test.

The irony is that, at a time when discontent with politics is at an all-time high, the number of parties continues to multiply. The standings in the Commons last week were Conservatives, 152; Liberals, 79; New Democrats, 48; Bloc Québécois, eight; Belote, one; Independent, three, and eight senators. These figures alone underscore the increasing nature of federal politics in the 1990s: at the time of the last election in 1988, the Blue Quebecois had not even and Belote was little more than a welfare protest movement, with only 12 candidates. This time, the field will include backbencher Mel Hurtig's National party and the strange-but-train Natural Law Party, whose newest gold is "Reason on Earth." If all the parties that have announced plans in run candidates do so, one Liberal Canada official said last week, the total is likely to eclipse the 1988 record of 23.

Whatever else it may signify, the explosion in the number of new parties clearly reflects growing weariness of the traditional élites. On the eve of the expected election call, there was a depressing sense that none of the major parties have honored the widespread desire for change. After the October 1993 referendum, the Tories, the Liberals and the New Democrats acknowledged that they were beaten by the desire of the constitutional proposal they had all endorsed—and all vowed to learn from the experience. And in some respects, at least, the parties have altered their campaign plans in satis-

faction of the public mood (page 20). But if recent events are any indication, these changes are almost entirely of style rather than substance.

Congressional budget from traditional methods of vote-giving has been born most robust with the two. Their contending for power the Conservatives and the Liberals. Perhaps because the Tories are in power, their tactics are the most predictable. In tried-and-trust fashion, last week they prosaged the sort of a campaign by encouraging an avalanche of public works projects in Montreal—where Liberal support in the province is still strongest. Transport Minister Jim Corbeil, the minister responsible for the Macdonald arms, finalized a \$2-billion project to build two viaducts east of the city. Separately, Deputy Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced a \$17-million federal contribution to rebuild a bridge in the city.

Unfortunately, the events of the past summer do nothing to dampen the impression that a government's promises are as dependable as a hole-in-the-ground customer warranty. The most obvious offender is Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. In defense, her rigid shifts on a series of major issues are proof, as one aide says, that she "loses to people and is not beholden to her position." To others, her flip-flop demonstrates that some of his commitments—such as those he personally made—should be repudiated. As transportation minister in January, she defended a government decision to end a federal program that provided funding for cost challenges under the Charter of

Robots and Freedoms. Last week, Campbell reinstated the program. As a candidate for the Tory leadership, she said that she would consider the idea of allowing prisoners, for experimental purposes, to impose user fees on health care services. As Prime Minister, she has said that she would do everything in black user fees—although at various times, and in various ways, she has qualified her words. During the leadership race, she also said that they would make public before the election a detailed plan to eliminate the federal deficit over five years. Now that she is Prime Minister, she says that she will do so only if re-elected.

Campbell's most polarized and controversial flip-flop, however, concerned the govern-

ment's planned \$5.8-billion purchase of 50 new military helicopters. While justice minister last year, she argued against the plan in cabinet meetings. After becoming defence minister last January, she publicly defended the government's claim that it needed 50 aircraft, and insisted she would not scale back the purchase. Last week, she cut the number to 40 (page 29).

Some of the commitments made by Campbell's principal rival meanwhile, appear either impossible or untrue to carry out. Liberal Leader Jean Chrétien has said that he would instruct Bank of Canada governor John Crow to de-emphasize the fight against inflation in favor of lower interest rates and, in theory at least, stronger economic growth.

But the bank's governor undoubtedly makes decisions independently from the government, and Crow says if that were changed, the federal bank such as the federal government would have to consider the full consequences on international money markets. By most accounts, the bank would seriously undermine operations if confidence in the Canadian dollar. But the Bank of Canada might actually have to increase interest rates rather than allow them to fall. By word of mouth, Chrétien seemed to be self-explaining financial resources.

Chrétien has also said that he would seek to re-open the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the United States and Mexico in order to negotiate a better deal. But that appears to be more of a wish than a commitment, given Liberal acknowledgement that the likelihood of success is minimal.

Like Campbell, Chrétien has declined to elaborate on one of his most important policies until after he is elected. He has vowed to eliminate the Goods and Services Tax, but will not say what he would put in its place. Either the Liberals are prepared to use the federal deficit rate by another \$15 billion—nearly the amount raised by the tax in the last fiscal year—or they are prepared to introduce one or



Chrétien in Ottawa last week: impossible or untrue commitments

more new taxes, the details of which they will disclose before voting day.

In fact, neither the Tories nor the Liberals have given Canadians a clear sense of what they stand for and against. The Liberals insist that they will make public most of the key elements of their platform during the campaign. Campbell, for his part, says the minister responsible for the country's public expenses, but has remained reticent throughout to discuss her policies except in the most superficial terms. She has held a news conference since she became Finance Minister on June 25. Even then, Tony Blair's press secretary of her government's policies—in part because Campbell has met her constituents only twice since becoming minister.

Equally, Campbell has spent relatively little time with members of her own cabinet—other than Finance Minister Gilles Labeau, a close confidant, and Justice Minister Pierre Belanger, the party's campaign co-chairman. Despite his public assertion that Charest—who founded a close school in the Lester B. Pearson days—would play a key role in policy development, the minister calls on him for such advice. Private relations between the two are far from cordial.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that the least popular of the three traditional parties, the NDP, has been the easiest and most successful in laying out its position on major policy issues. Among other things, the party has said that it would strengthen both NAFTA

and the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, propose a 15-per-cent cut in funding and staffing for the armed forces and offer a detailed—though controversial—five-year plan to create full employment. Leader Audrey McLaughlin insists that the party's characteristics with politicians is only skin deep. "I am not so convinced, in some people that this country is so fed up," she says.

But the New Democrats' standing in public opinion polls is poor, so now that some members want a bit of flesh with fewer than the 12 seats it needs to be formally recognized in the Commons, the pro-labour numbers, the party's traditional standing as a major national force effectively forced it to campaign as though it had a realistic chance of forming the next government. It is a strategy that will likely

serve the NDP poorly against such newer rivals as the Bloc Québécois and the Reform party—which can concentrate their efforts in particular areas where they have strength.

One sign of the widespread frustration with established parties is that each has spawned one or more small movements composed largely of disillusioned former supporters. The membership rolls of Reforms and the Bloc Québécois include large numbers of former Tories, while many members of Harper's National party once belonged to the Libs and the NDP. At the same time, Chrestie's decision to appoint some candidates over the heads of local riding associations may result in as many as a dozen additional Liberal households running as independents. In Quebec's Hull/L'Assomption rid-

ing, where former minor federal bureaucrats Marcel Maure and Christian Hudspeth candidate, the Bloc Québécois' Tony Bell and independent candidates are all former Liberals.

At a time when the search for open public debate is acute, this is a danger that the sheer number of competing voices will render detailed discussions of substantive issues almost impossible. Over the course of a 45-day campaign, voters may find the cacophony of voices more confusing than inspiring. And if, on Sunday, the Conservatives and TV stations reach agreement for English-language debates in early October, with Campbell, Chrestie, McLaughlin and Blanchard taking part in both sessions, Manning, who does not speak French fluently, will participate fully in the English debate but appear only briefly, with simultaneous translation, in the French session.

In one form or another, the country's governing party has been campaigning for more than six months, since Mulroney's nomination announcement at the Feb. 26 dinner in a benign, noisy setting are doubtless looking forward to the campaign's end. Tony Bell, however, and others, say that even deadlocked negotiations may find a way to settle the issue. "It's the situation that counts," says Chrestie. "If we could get a deal, it probably would probably be those who show the most enthusiasm prepared to talk less, more room and only make promises they can keep."

ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH WITH K. KATE POLLARD AND RANDY WOOD IN OTTAWA

I S S U E S

CONSERVATIVES

DEFICIT REDUCTION



Prime Minister Kim Campbell has vowed to, among other things, the federal government's current budget deficit (projected to be \$3.2 billion in its 1993-94 fiscal year). But she has left few details on how she would do that beyond promising to raise taxes.

JOB CREATION



Increased trade and job creation are the keys to creating jobs, the Tories say. The party says that it will not launch any major new job-generation programs because they would dilute the deficit and create business confidence. In addition, the Tories have simplified eligibility rules for unemployment insurance.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS



Campbell has talked about streamlining medicare coverage for medically unnecessary services, but has not said what that would entail. She, too, adds that senior-saver programs will have to be cut, possibly reducing Old Age Security benefits for high-income seniors. In 1984 and 1988, the party promised a national job-training program, but it has since scrapped that plan.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT



The Tories recently passed amendments to the Year-Old Offender Act so it's youths charged with minor crime face trial in youth courts. Campbell has also called for tougher sex laws for violent youth offenders. Despite the government's past laws to protect women from men who follow and stalk them and to make possession of child pornography a life offence punishable by five years in prison,

POLITICAL REFORM



Campbell says that she would prevent senior senators from collecting pensions until they turn 50; allow more free votes in the House of Commons and increase attempts to disclose more information about their activities.

LIBERALS

DEFICIT REDUCTION

The Liberals promise to reduce the deficit gradually by about three per cent of gross domestic product, or \$3.2 billion over four years. They also suggest that the government cut the debt but have not said how they would compensate for the net loss in revenues—roughly \$3.5 billion a year.

The Liberals say that they will create jobs by retooling \$100 million in existing spending over four years to a high-priority capital fund encouraging banks to lend more money to small businesses and launching a \$60-million public works program to restore roads and other public facilities, with costs shared evenly by Ottawa and provinces and municipal governments.

Chrestie says that he is committed to maintaining medicare as it exists, from across Canada. He will fight any move to broaden user fees. The party says that spending—the number of uninsured days over a period—outpaces not universal, say the plans.

Among Chrestie's proposals: liberal parole laws; more funds for women's shelters; minimum wage; a pension supplement; and strict controls on pension for high-income athletes. The Liberals also say that they would double minimum sentence for youths convicted of first-degree murder to 10 years.

Along with more fine-wires for spyware, the Liberals say that they will make stronger controls on lobbyists—including disclosure of both paid and voluntary work that lobbyists do for political parties. The party says that the parliamentary pensions plan needs to be brought into line with private-sector pension schemes.

NEW DEMOCRATS

DEFICIT REDUCTION

NDP Leader Audrey McLaughlin says that the party has decided to do whatever it takes to reduce the deficit, to ensure that every person works, not pays taxes. The party says that most (about 1.2 million) will still receive welfare, while repealing the 1991 personal supports tax and raising rates on those making over \$200,000. The party estimates that the new taxes would prevent a \$1 billion annual deficit.

McLaughlin says that her party's priorities—slimming welfare to bring the GNP and revenue closer to the same—would require cuts of \$200,000-plus per person. The party also proposes a \$1-billion investment fund, which it says would create 200,000 jobs over five years. The NDP also wants to ban the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, which it says has cost Canada jobs.

New Democrats plan to eliminate medicare in its present form. The NDP also promises to double the size of the civil service to 600,000 and create 47,500 more jobs in five years. According to the party, such a program could finance \$1.5 billion annually from taxes, \$1.5 billion from the provinces and \$750 million from non-taxed areas.

McLaughlin says that it would attack what it sees as root causes of crime—including poverty, homelessness and the physical and social abuse of children. It also emphasizes the protection of users of welfare services who are边缘化ed on mental illness. It says that it would establish a "no-incarceration model" to work with prisoners at maximum security.

McLaughlin was the first party leader to call for an independent review of life pensions. The party says it would encourage child parents to pass out assets in their permits by passing legislation to prevent so-called wealth-shares. The party also wants abolishing the Benefits

REFORM

DEFICIT REDUCTION

One of the mainstays of Reform Leader Preston Manning's programme is his promise to eliminate the deficit by 1993, with an average of \$1.5 billion a year. The total projected revenues of \$12.1 billion, less the total projected costs of \$10.6 billion, amounting to \$1.5 billion. The party estimates that the new taxes would prevent a \$1 billion annual deficit.

The party maintains that high deficits and taxes are silent killers of jobs. Reducing those barriers, says the party, will create more employment. The party would not spend public money on job protection.

Manning says that his party would set the provinces aside to help eliminate medicare—reducing the right to choose user fees. Reform would invest about \$5 billion over three years than the unemployment insurance program. Transfer payments to the provinces would be cut by about \$1.5 billion over three years. They do not advocate a uniform funding formula.

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BLOC QUÉBECOIS

DEFICIT REDUCTION

The Bloc advocates reduction in federal spending of about \$1 billion annually. Another \$1 billion a year would be eliminated from existing programs to fit into previous programs. The Bloc maintains that at least \$6 billion would be eliminated from present spending without touching social programs.

Bloc Leader Lucien Bouchard says that he will continue to demand increased federal funding for job creation programs in the Quebec. The Bloc would also seek complete control of the unemployment insurance program in Quebec.

The Bloc says that it opposes medicare user fees and supports university—but says that provinces, not Ottawa, should control social programs. As well, the party wants to hand over complete control of education, manpower and training, while continuing to provide funding.

No policies announced yet...

The Bloc's primary goal is Quebec independence. It is measured, it says, abolishing the Senate.

DILEMMA '93

Canadians are alienated, but the politicians 'just don't get it'

During the federal election of 1993, Conservative Leader John Diefenbaker wistfully bemoaned a loss in Canada's \$500-million campaign coffers across Canada. Many of his advisers, leaving a Liberal seat, considered the by-the-rail political bazaar. Tastes were too raw, they argued, while safety stations were public accommodations, financed by the marketplace, to a thing of blood and empty platforms. In his die-hard years, a leader could be reelected only by telepathy, went to the next step up. A journey. Overhead, Liberal MP member Lester Pearson started about a century ago, a leader's Maytag jet, chattering at a steady stream of voters. They held on in a military government as it was once. They held on in a majority government with 221 of 295 seats, to the 'boxed' PC and the 'boxed' LP. It was Diefenbaker's final leadership campaign, destined though it was, that would be the party's gravestone. As the news papers said with glee, that read: "He can't enough to come."

The selfsame ad stand ready to stage the 1993 federal election, exactly lack lack in may of the public mood inspired by Diefenbaker's quixotic years. Seven federal elections later, much of the hope and optimism that formerly alienated Canadian society has vanished. Voters have never been more alienated from the political process, more cynical and tired of talk or thinkings of their future. Politicians, meanwhile, have rarely appeared so eager to dismiss the trappings of power as an amateur to project a certain image. Every where, elected officials are scrambling to adapt to the no-nonsense expectations of a nation that is no longer easily impressed. "This is the first time," says pollster Michael Adams, fully conscious of the way, "that the party that promises the least can get the most."

Policemen have always faced the electorate with impulsion. With the vulnerability and gale of contestants in a beauty pageant, politi-

cal candidates in the past were judged on looks, poise and charisma. Ability and experience mattered, long standing family political allegiances and a host of campaign promises often mattered less. For all the differences in party particularities, the range of national leaders was clear water were used to choose among three, sometimes four or five, men in

But these are battle-scarred times. The defeat of the constitutional referendum in October, 1992, represented a repudiation not only of the country's political establishment but of its business and social elites. Now, 10 million people, 6 million of whom are officially unemployed, and a new class approaching 8500 MP's. Canadians have made it abundantly clear that they have lost faith in the political system.

In 1988, Brian Mulroney's Tories won re-election after a campaign in which they promised to "manage change." Five years later, voters are more leery than the stability of their democracy.

Politicians have always faced the electorate with impulsion. With the vulnerability and gale of contestants in a beauty pageant, politi-

cal leaders—men or women—is message than they blithely accept a political commitment to deliver.

What is not yet clear is what voters plan to do about it. "There's something going on out there at a very deep level," says Richard Anderson, a veteran Ottawa lobbyist who now plots strategy for the Calgary-based Reform Party. "Canadians are ready to explore some serious changes to the way this country operates."

These changes, Anderson believes, reflect the role of politics in the world. Canada is ahead, the political mood of the 1990s is perhaps best captured by the refrain: "They are dead, get out." Only one leader, Ontario's Liberal, Mike Harris, has now stepped down, and left over 12,000 people out of work. Public Security Minister Doug Lewis complained to a reporter about the country's leaders with the 10.2 per cent unemployment rate: "No matter how you slice it, they just don't get it."

The New Democratic Party and its leader, Andrea McLaughlin, have reportedly accepted the terms of selling off Canadian jobs to Americans as the 1993 Free Trade Agreement. Amazingly, the party recently hired a Washington, D.C., firm to help produce the party's election book.

They just don't get it.

The Liberals have spent the past three years drafting a detailed public discussion on party policy issues; they explained, they were afraid other parties would steal their ideas.

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In the search for ways to cope with the watershed 1990s, Canadian politicians are predictably deviating the lessons of the 1982 U.S. presidential election. One of the most obvious lessons concerns the electorate's volatility. In 1980, thanks largely to the Gulf War, George Bush

won the most popular leader in the Western world. A year later, Americans decided that he was out of touch—and dumped him in favor of the previously obscure governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton. And Clinton's victory upset the importance of another factor: the extent to which voters can identify with a politician. Says Liberal politician Peter MacNeil: "Only losers look out the Clinton—OK and Hitler—and could see themselves going out in theater or in a show with them. They weren't ordinary, but they were very representative."

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They just don't get it.

POSTMODERN POLITICS

Fragility is fit, empathy is crucial and less is more. In the 1990s, image still counts—it's just that the rules have all changed.

S TART

You wore the same outfit to three different events in the same week, proving you're no clotheshorse. Roll again.

Your TV ads look too slick—should have used that hand-held Concierge. Take two steps back.

You're a man of the people. Park that executive jet and travel the country by bus. Take another turn.



Your NCP bodyguards are keeping the public at bay. Uh-oh—to presidential Take two steps back.

Looking for satisfied questions? Strike up the traditional w-Ah and chat about your love life with MacMuscle's Eric Den. Move forward one space.

Big mistake...
You tell Eric your favorite musical instrument is a cello. Miss a turn.

Your campaign staff forgot to buy Canadian. Return to start.

Instinct: Bill Clinton, you convene an electronic town hall meeting. Real people, real politics, real TV. Roll again.

Clothes: Caught wearing Gucci shoes. Return to start.

Unemployed: You can't wave a magic wand and get people back to work, but if that's what you care. Take four steps forward.

THREE-WAY RACE

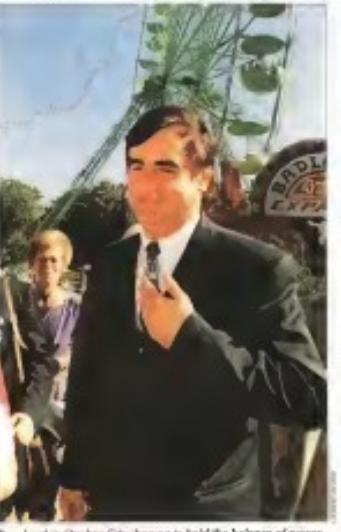
The Conservatives' Quebec fortress is under siege by Liberals and the Bloc Québécois

Rene Hébert is ready, as armed for battle as she has ever been. Her R of good, the diminutive 48-year-old points to the piles of red card cards on her desk. "On every one of those cards I have the name of a likely Liberal voter—and a potential party voter," boasts Hébert, a Liberal organizer. She throws an arm towards the window, beyond which roll the suburbs of Beauport, opposite Montreal island. On the St. Lawrence River's south shore, "We got 15,000 red cards for this riding alone," she continues. "And we're in almost the same shape in each of the other 14 ridings I'm helping to organize." Placing to stand and an over-present cigarette, Hébert chuckles. "It's time to get off show on the road."

The show, of course, is the federal election campaign. And so those who investigate the end of the Conservatives' nine years of dominance in Quebec, there is an understandable impatience to get on with the job. Since Mulroney's Tories have ruled the province faithfully ever since Sept. 4, 1984, when they captured 58 of its 75 seats. In 1988 the Tories sliced their Quebec total to 63 seats. And now, despite defection to the Bloc Québécois in 1990 and two by-election losses, the PCs have 56 Quebec seats. The Liberals hold nine, the Bloc Québécois eight and the New Democrats are gone next to zero.

But the next Parliament is likely to be far different. Most polls suggest that the province's voters are about equally divided among Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Tories, Jean Chrétien's Liberals and Lucien Bouchard's Bloc Québécois. Even partisans like Hébert, a Liberal organizer for the past 20 years, concede that the race is likely to be close. "I have a hunch that we are going to see at least four of contests decided by less than

a thousand votes," she says. All three of the main contenders enter the campaign with proven strengths and glaring weaknesses. The Bloc Québécois is, in most ways, best positioned. The Bloc was founded in July 1990, by Beauchamp, a moderate Quebec nationalist who broke with Mulroney over the government's last gasp efforts to save the March 1987 accord. With a small band of secessionists left from both the Tories and the Liberals, Beauchamp launched an assault against the



Bouchard in Quebec City, hoping to hold the balance of power

CAMPAGN 93

Canadian inflation from within Parliament. Over the past three years, oil after gold has ranked the second-worst party in the federal choice of between 30 and 40 per cent of Quebecers. And until Campbell's recent surge, Beauchamp has been the province's most popular politician. Born with both feet Quebec, it is even more significant outside. Among French-speaking Quebecers, the Bloc's support has held steady at about half of declared voters. "French-speaking ridings," says Bob Delair, the Bloc's chief organiser, "I think we are going to be pretty hard to beat."

The Bloc's campaign, in fact, is unashamedly geared to words like francophone, majority. Not one of the 70 Bloc candidates nominated so far is an anglophone. Only five are drawn from the province's burgeoning immigrant population. While Bloc officials publicly bemoan the lack of representation from beyond the ranks of the "more west" French-speaking majority, they make no attempt to attract non-francophone candidates. And they readily acknowledge the impact. "I mean that we have no chance at all in 35 or 30 ridings, mostly in the western end of Montreal island," Delair says.

The Bloc's stated goal is to send 50 separatist MPs to Ottawa. Privately, the figure is lower, somewhere between 25 and 30 seats. The party appears to have the organisational muscle to accomplish the task, thanks to the support of the like-minded Parti Québécois (PQ), many of whose members worked for the Tories in 1984 and 1988. It also has the money, largely as the result of a nearly \$1.5-million loan from the pro-nationalist Desjardins credit union, nowaymond. But Quebecers historically vote in

waves for the party they believe will best represent their interests in Ottawa—usually the party poised to take power. The Bloc's seat count may depend on its ability to convince Quebecers that their best interests lie with a party dedicated entirely to defeating Quebec's own party. And that has no chance at winning power. The party's heartland seems intent to hold the balance of power in a division of Quebec.

But if the Cdn. the Bloc may lack the quality candidates required for a major electoral breakthrough. The party has been unable to attract any of the establishment's political stars. Most high-profile separatists have chosen to hold their own and paid their expected provincial election. Aside from Beauchamp and a few others—such as former PQ cabinet minister Françoise Lalonde, running in the east-central Montreal riding of Marquette—most of the party's standard-bearers are known only locally. The list of candidates is hideously enough to lend credence to the charge that the Bloc is the "B Team" of the Parti Québécois.

For Quebec's Liberals, the problem is exactly the reverse. While the party has been able to field a slate of high-profile candidates, Liberal fortunes in the province are hamstrung by the unpopularity of the leader, Jean Chrétien. "For most francophones, Chrétien is a bad dream, a nightmarish entity," claims Bloc Québécois candidate Lalonde.

Although Lalonde's view is friendly partisan, the polls suggest that it is well-founded. A survey conducted in late August by the respected CROP polling firm found that only 11 per cent of Quebec respondents have confidence in Chrétien's leadership. Campbell, in contrast, was the choice of 36 per cent of Quebecers, while Bouchard received a 23-per-cent approval rating.

Chrétien's image is as poor in Quebec as some Liberals consider it possible that he will lose the St. Maurice riding, which includes his birthplace, Ste-Marie, halfway between Montreal and Quebec City. The Conservatives, wounded by charges of sexual impropriety levelled against Denis Provencher, the riding's sitting MP, do not appear to be much of a threat in St-Maurice. The Bloc is running one new New Democratic Party candidate, Claude Rompré, against Charles Bonin, who was an aide to former NDP leader Ed Broadbent, and was ahead of the Liberals in 1988 and has done even better with the Bloc. "Chrétien is probably safe as long as the voters in St-Maurice think they are voting for a good minister," cautions one Liberal organizer. "But watch out if they start to get the idea that he is not about to carry the rest of the country."

Fronted with Chrétien's low level of personal appeal, the Liberal campaign strategy in Quebec is designed to sell the party as a team. Of the 72 candidates nominated, over

a dozen every kind of constituency that can pose the way to a cabinet post. Marcel Masse, a highly regarded former federal cabinet minister, Half-Acrene, looks a shot that reaches, among others, former Quebec Liberal cabinet minister Clifford Lamont and former Quebec City mayor Jim Pollett.

The Tories' team strength in Quebec is the identical as the hodge-podge other Canadian, Quebecers' true-blue drove the Campbell brand

JEAN CHRÉTIEN IS SO UNPOPULAR HE MAY EVEN LOSE HIS HOME RIDING

sooner rather than later. This is as it was the summer, when Quebec voters sent a resounding rebuke to a Bloc candidate in the Montreal suburb of St. Léonard. In addition, the Tory slate includes such heavyweights as Deputy Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Finance Minister Gilles Louche, and Privy Council President Pierre Blasie. Jean Lesage, senator and grandson of the founder of Quebec's first newspaper, is running for the Tories against Verne in St-Hubert. All the same, the Tories' decade-long dominance of federal politics in Quebec may be coming to an end. And the manner in which Quebecers choose to Eli that will soon prove to have repercussions far beyond their borders.

That is clearly wisdom thinking. For a start,

the Tories are notoriously weak on the ground. "In 1984 and 1988, it was the Parti Québécois machine that put the Tories in power," says Bloc organizer Delair. "That means that racists, Half-Acrene, looks a shot that reaches, among others, former Quebec Liberal cabinet minister Clifford Lamont and former Quebec City mayor Jim Pollett.

The Tories' team strength in Quebec is the identical as the hodge-podge other Canadian,

Quebecers' true-blue drove the Campbell brand

and unheralded the party.

Still, the Conservatives are not without assets. "They have all the money," gloats former Tory MP Pierre Vézina, who served as a Bloc candidate in the Montreal suburb of St. Léonard. In addition, the Tory slate includes such heavyweights as Deputy Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Finance Minister Gilles Louche, and Privy Council President Pierre Blasie.

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PEACE GETS A CHANCE

AFTER SECRET TALKS,
ISRAEL REACHES A
STUNNING AGREEMENT
WITH AN ARCHENEMY

An independent Palestinian state on living size by side with Israel? The very thought of it brings to mind the biblical prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, when the lamb and the wolf, natural enemies, shall dwell together in peace. That was once an improbable dream because a realistic goal last week Israeli and Palestinian officials said that they had reached tentative agreement on a phased introduction of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel's cabinet quickly approved the proposal. And both sides said that the deal, struck in secret meetings in Norway, could be signed as early as this week at the eleventh round of Middle East peace talks in Washington. Then, another startling breakthrough Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) announced yesterday agreement on mutual recognition—a landmark decision that would resolve a major obstacle in Middle East peace. In an emotional speech to the Knesset (parliament), Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres declared, "The beginning of the end to the 100-year conflict between us and the Palestinians is coming."

After 22 months of largely fruitless Arab-Israeli peace talks under the wings of the United States and Russia,



events unfolded last week with stunning speed. News of the Palestinian autonomy deal had barely sunk in when negotiators Farouq Shukrieh of Israel and Moussawi Al-Alai of Syria separately notified that Jerusalem and Damascus would soon reach agreement on a framework for peace. That would end Israel's withdrawal from the

strategic Golan Heights in return for full diplomatic and trade relations with Syria. Meanwhile, a Jordanian official acknowledged that there is "a high chance" that Amman and Jerusalem will sign a draft peace agreement during the current round of Washington talks. And if PLO offered next Tuesday is close to a settlement with Israel. Middle East analysts greeted the latest developments with a mixture of surprise and optimism. Said William Quandt, an expert at Washington-based Brookings Institution: "If Syria joins the peace, the Arab-Israeli conflict is on the way to being resolved."

The Israeli-Palestinian agreement announced last week proposes joint immediate autonomy for the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho (page 32). And there would be limited self-rule for the rest of the West Bank during a five-year transition period. This is the first stage of the occupied territories, outlined by Israel during the 1987 Middle East war, which began two years after the agreement's long-awaited. Although the Israeli government officially favors some form of eventual Palestinian co-administration with neighboring Jordan, many Arabs and Israelis see the accord as the first step towards an independent Palestinian state.

Night-long bonfires predicting the historic agreement; predictions of continued violence

Details of the agreement remained sketchy last week, but according to a modified transcript published in the Israeli newspaper *Yedioth Ahronot* (The Latest News), an elected Palestinian council will govern the 1.8 million Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza during the five-year transition period. The council will have authority over education, culture, health, social welfare, taxation and finance. The Palestinians will also be allowed to form their own police force.

A key part of the agreement, however, among negotiators is Golan-Jordan Plan, in which Israel agreed to rescue the Palestinians from economic ruin. It calls for joint Israeli-Palestinian action, financed by Arab, European, Japanese and American money to improve Palestinian water supplies, electrical power grids at the West Bank and Gaza, which have stagnated during 20 years of Israeli occupation. Said Richard Housen, a Middle East adviser to former U.S. president George Bush: "The Palestinians need to equate progress in the peace talks with improvements in their lives."

The Golan-Jordan Plan proposal leaves unanswered several important questions. Discussion of these issues will likely be delayed for two years when negotiations begin

on the final status of the occupied territories. Among the questions:

- Who is the head of Jerusalem. Israel has authority to consider any compromise over its capital, which includes over 200,000 Jews and East-Jews from Palestinians agreeing the city as the future capital of their own independent state. The issue is the most contentious between the two sides.

• The status of about 100 Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, where more than 160,000 Israelis live among 1.6 million Palestinians. Their rights under a future Palestinian government must be negotiated.

- Security arrangements. The two sides must agree where to employ Israeli troops currently stationed in the West Bank and Gaza, and decide what powers the proposed Palestinian police force will have over Arabs and Bedouins.

• Palestinian refugees. The PLO wants the right of return for more than 800,000 Arabs who fled the West Bank and Gaza, mostly to Arab countries, during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Israel is concerned that such an influx will baffle the PLO's demand for an independent state—a concern many Israelis are not yet ready to accept.

Although Western governments applauded the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, domestic critics condemned it—and often expressed their opposition publicly. While Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet met in Jerusalem last week to vote on the proposal, about 4,000 Israeli right-wingers protested outside, hurling eggs at police who fired water canons to disperse them. Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the main opposition Likud party, threatened to bring down the Labor-led coalition government. Jewish settlers showed their opposition by forming a new settlement in the West Bank. An extreme right-wing Zionist group, Reparation of Zionists, claimed responsibility for a grenade attack on the home of Justice Minister Ayte Dery, saying that it was a warning for him to resign because of the agreement.

On the Palestinian side, radical guerrillas leader Ahmed Shahid threatened to kill PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat. Shahid publicly reminded Arafat of the fate of another Arab who made peace with Israel, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat—assassinated by Muslim fundamentalists in 1981. And Palestinian guerrilla killers in Beirut seized over the West Bank city of Hebron. Militant Arab groups in the occupied territories, including the Muslim fundamentalists Hamas and Islamic Jihad, oppose Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and have targeted many Israelis since the start of the intifada, or uprising, in 1987.

Analysts predicted more such violence in



World Notes

KOSOVO SHAKUP

Bosnian President Slobodan Milošević has reigned in reclusive威严. His son, Alexander Milošević, and his loyal deputy prime minister, Milivoj Šćepanović, became the main targets of corruption charges. A preliminary form of corruption investigation and last week's court trial did not yield any convictions. Funds captured fraudulently from Bosnian banks, who denies any wrongdoing, recently named Šćepanović in connection with allegations that funds for his son were misappropriated. Šćepanović also denied the charge.

LOVE CULT BREAKS UP

In Argentina, authorities detained 222 people, including the Canadian following a raid on an alleged sex-for-salvation religious sect. Thirty leaders and members of the Family of Love, the Argentine branch of the California-based Children of God sect, were held on charges of racketeering, kidnapping and violating the rights of children. The U.S.-based Child Awareness Network says that the sect's adults and children sleep with each other in the belief that salvation comes through sex. Sect leaders deny the charge.

RUSSIA GOES HOME

Church bells pealed across Lithuania to celebrate the withdrawal of the last Russian troops, ending a 15-year military presence. Lithuania, with its Baltic neighbors Latvia and Estonia, was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 under a secret pact between Germany's Adolf Hitler and Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

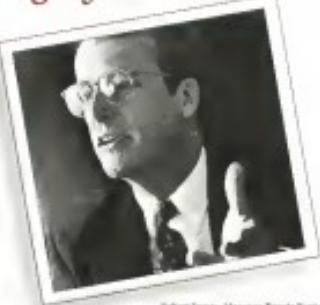
TOP COP

Lion Fresh, 52, was sworn in as director of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, replacing William Sessions, who was fired by President Bill Clinton in July amid allegations that he abused the privileges of his office. Fresh, a former FBI agent and judge, is the bureau's fifth director.

A BOSNIAN STALEMATE

Georgian peace talks broke down after Serbian President Slobodan Milošević produced new demands for a rump Muslim republic comprising 24 percent of Bosnia's territory, rather than the 30 percent offered in a plan introduced by international mediators. Milošević normally controls about 10 percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav republic. The other three Serb partners, Serbia and Croatia, refused to compromise.

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WORLD

for Israel. "After the holocaust and separation of the political government in 1948, the Jewish soldiers will see that they have no future," said Robert Novakovic, director of Middle East studies at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "Sovereignty will give us time to either to make land and defend, others will resort to terrorism. Rebels on the Palestinian side will do the same. Both groups will know they can achieve nothing, but terrorism will keep them in the zone."

Still, Israeli and Palestinian public opinion appeared to back the autonomy plan. A poll published in *Yediot Ahronot* showed 53 per cent of Israelis in favor of the proposal, 45 per cent opposed. The same paper also published a poll showing that 74 per cent of Palestinians in the occupied territories support the agreement while 24 percent oppose it.

The Israel-Palestinian accord was the continuation of a series of agreements between the two sides since the end of the Cold War and the collapse of Soviet communism brought a decline in diplomatic and military support from Moscow and its Warsaw Pact allies. Arab's oil placed support of Israel in the 1991 Gulf War also cost the world and political backing of many Workers' Soviets and, even more damaging, the loss of oil-rich Arab Gulf states. (The Arab's fiscal budget was \$280 million in 1989, but is now about \$20 billion.) Meanwhile, the rising popularity of militant Arab groups in the occupied territories enabled Arab to appear increasingly moderate in nervous Israeli. Last week, PLO officials said that they were very close to announcing their recognition of Israel's right to exist and their renunciation of violence, preconditions for the Jewish state's recognition of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

For Jibril's Labor government, elected last year as a platform of "peace with security," another trial had seemed inevitable after 18 months in office. Below, a former army general, made it clear from the start that he was willing to trade captured land for peace with his Arab neighbors. But progress was elusive during 18 previous rounds of formal negotiations; terrorist violence continued unabated and tensions grew increasingly important for change. Spurred on by his more moderate foreign minister, Peres, and cognizant of the household 11.0% redundancies to compensate, Rabin decided to gamble on the Camp David First proposal. As he told his coalition partners last week, "The time has come to take a chance on peace." Late last week, after six months of secret discussions, Arab and Israeli negotiators were putting the final touches on a number of historic agreements—and a Biblical prophecy seemed about to come true.

ANDREW BILSBY with ERIC SILVER in Jerusalem and BENJAMIN GOLDFARB in Washington

WORLD

THE GAZA STRIP

'Enclave of gloom'

A Palestinian ghetto clamors for change

Centralized doses take up one-third of the 15 square miles, an area about half the size of Manhattan, and the rest of its land can barely sustain 300,000 inhabitants of some 700,000. The house-scarred Gaza Strip is among the most densely populated territories in the world, and certainly one of the poorest. Former forests have mostly vanished. About

unemployment there is as high as 40 per cent, compared with about 15 per cent in Israel. Per capita income is about \$1,700 as easily measured as that in Israel. And current annual investment in Gaza is only about \$200 million. Britain estimates that it will take nearly \$4 billion over the proposed five years of civilian settlement to make Gaza economically viable.

In the meantime, grinding poverty endures.



Gaza street scene: *despair challenges after 26 years of Israeli occupation*

65,000 of its predominantly Arab residents are refugees whose families fled those during the Israeli-Arab war that followed the partition of Palestine in 1948. Today, about 250,000 Arabs live in eight sprawling refugee camps, the rest in decrepit houses and villages. In Gaza, the challenges of the autonomy plan announced by Israel and Palestinian leaders last week are enormous. "Both sides can afford to sign an agreement but they don't have the cash to implement it," says Barry Hoagland, an analyst with the Washington-based Middle East Institute. "Eighty per cent of the people are living off of us handouts. They have no work, no opportunities and no income."

A recent study of the Gaza economy paints a dismal picture. An author based research consultant Sandra Shabot estimates that

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ANDREW BILSBY with ANDY SILVER
in Jerusalem

Jitters in Jericho

An ancient city will test the new accord

Jencho's Arab mayor told Madanit's "Not the Israeli, not the P.L. They should have discussed it with us first."

The ancient city of Jenin, a quiet oasis of stone fountains, purple bougainvillea, sweet-scented orange blossoms, old houses and crenelated towers in the West Bank, was captured by Israeli tanks last week. The Arab community of 15,000, accepted Jenin—now the Israeli town, was shown with speculation as representatives from the Jewish state and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) wrangled as agreed to grant autonomy to the city and the Gush Emunim decided the historic scope of the breakthrough, there was no cheering in the streets of Jenin, where an equally isolated city had was chosen to get the PLO as its official foothold in the West Bank. Instead, with no details of the plus available from negotiations on other sites, uncertainty hung heavy in the air. "We had it all," Israeli Khalid

almost 30 years now, but nothing has changed."

For the one being, there is only confusion: "as of as can tell what the future will bring until we will all die down," said Khalaf, a nearly landowner who has been a Hebron mayor since 1981. His brother had the job before him. "We wanted to know how we were to also travel from one West Bank town to another," he added. "Jericho was business, family and social links with Jerusalem, with Hebrew and Bethlehem, with Nablus and

"What also worries the mayor is a proposed plan for the Palestinians to control internal security within Gericco's 18 square miles. The Palestinians have no police force and, since the intifada began, no such committee has served under the leadership. "I don't believe the Palestinians can handle it on their own," admitted Mayor Tzipi. To ensure safety, he wants the help of the Jordanians, who ruled the West Bank from 1948 until 1967. "We have Jewish settlements surrounding our city. We need security, for both sides."

The major factor that, once the Israeli army pulls out, members of the official Palestine fundamentalist Hamas movement,



riches, skepticism that grace—and prosperity—may finally be around the corner.

who oppose all compromise with Israel, will try to undermine the new regime. He estimates that Hamas commands the support of 30 to 35 per cent of Jenin's population—and he may be right. In a coffee house off the city's main square, a group of teenagers

join. T-shirts and white armbands predict more trouble ahead. After the bricks are gone, they agreed, the mobists will turn against the local leadership. "We don't trust them to run the city," said one. "They're a lot of cowards."

Outside in the square, many of Irvin's other residents were visibly annoyed. A few even adamantly refused to talk to a visitor about their politics, perhaps the first man as the story of his trade to do so. And while other people said that they were honored at the guy had been selected as the first Black community to run its own affairs, others hoped that it would not be the last. "All our cities have the same soul, the same need, the same want," said one Black resident, "and we're a long way from being equal." Another Black man said, "Peace must include all."

Set 15 km to the west, through the scorched wastes of the desert, on the road to Beersheba, the 1,800 Jews living at the Kfar Etzion settlement had memories of their late Reuven and Haya Grunblat moved there nine years ago from New York City, where Reuven was a software maven. And on a clear day the Golanites can see Jericho and all below their perch "Living next door to a Palestinian enclave is going to be living on the border of Lebanon," said Shavit, 32, who fears that Jericho will become a safe haven for terrorists. "Even if it's not permitted to go in, these hands will be fired by a Palestinian police force, which isn't going to hand over weapons to the Arabs."

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TERMINAL CASE

PRIVATIZING CANADA'S BIGGEST AIRPORT PROVOKES MANY QUESTIONS

CAMPAIGN '93
ISSUE #5
Issues

The news on Aug. 30 that Ottawa had concluded a "general agreement" to privatize two terminals at Toronto's Lester B. Pearson International Airport meant many things to many people. For the government, it was a key step in realizing its 1987 policy to devolve a share of control of Canada's airports. It was also an opportunity for the Conservative party to raise the value of more than 2,000 new jobs at the key port of Ontario prior to a federal election. For the Pearson Development Corp. (PDC), a private consortium that includes Conservative party stalwart Donald Matthews, the deal to upgrade the airport's Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 facilities represented the fruition of two years of work on a winner bid—and a lucrative monopoly over Canada's largest airport. For the airlines that use Pearson, the agreement released concerns about escalating costs in an era of cut-throat competition. But for Chet Head, general manager of Pearson, the announcement was downright disruptive. "We're anxious around trying to fix the value of the fixtures that are part of this deal," said Head. "That's about 10,000 seats, addition power plants and companies to count."

The upshot at Pearson airport, however, is just beginning. As soon as the lease is signed in November, PDC will start the first phase of a \$50-million, 10-year renovation and construction program. Although Transport Canada and Air Canada spent \$135 million to improve Terminal 2 in 1984, PDC plans to spend another \$30 million by 1995 to further expand the facility. In the final stage of the proposal, in 1995, PDC plans to demolish Terminal 1 and rebuild it. The consortium forecasts that despite the global shift in air travel, passenger traffic will grow by an average annual rate of three per cent over that period, ensuring that the new capacity at Pearson is required. But not everyone agrees that the work is necessary at this point. Self-styled party critic John Milner, "Those see the kind of projections that got the airline industry into trouble in the first place."

Indeed, at a time when airports and air lines are forced to be frugalistic to have



Traveler paying user fees at Vancouver airport; new costs in flux, surfaces

host of concerns. For one thing, while many airports in the United States are owned and managed by local authorities or not for profit basis, private commercial ownership could dramatically increase the costs charged both to airlines and to passengers at Pearson. That, in turn, could diminish the competitiveness of the airport and the business it generates in the local economy. Under the terms of the deal with PDC, the group

has the right to charge user fees with the approval of Transport Canada.

Yet another concern is that Pearson will not fit under the auspices of a local airport authority, as are the few other airports in Canada where control was relinquished by Ottawa. According to Peter Moon, a spokesman for federal Transport Minister Jean Courteau, there are "still hurdles to overcome and criteria to meet" before such a

group is formed in Toronto. Still Moon "There would be a role for a local authority" in the future. In Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver, where airport authority has already been transferred to local bodies, strategic planning documents are not profitably transferred outside. Those concerned about the privatization of Pearson have also raised questions about the setting of the deal as well as the political ties of the consortium's owners. PDC is comprised of two main groups: Panport Inc. and T3 Ltd. T3 Ltd., which includes Clarke Group, a company owned by the Bradford family of Montreal, is also the majority owner of Pearson's Terminal 2. Panport is 46 percent owned by the Matthews

Last week, former federal revenue minister Gena Johnson said he has accepted the presidency of Matthews Asia, a part of the Matthews Group.

The contract to privatize the two terminals is considered a success because Pearson is one of the six airports that has successfully made money for the federal government. As the hub of Canada's air transport system some 20 million passengers used Pearson in 1990 compared with 8.5 million in Montreal. Furthermore, Pearson's revenues have traditionally been used to subsidize other Canadian airports.

For its part, Panport's chief executive officer, Jack Matthews, has acknowledged that he "would be a fool to say there's no political agenda attached to the timing of the deal." But he added, the pre-election push is greatest the upper strata precisely from his political base of job creation. He also noted that there is a "strong political focus on debt reduction." One of Ottawa's key considerations in transferring responsibility for airports is the desire to divest itself of the burdens of capital intensive maintenance and asset upgrades.

When it comes to dialogue with the Conservative party, however, Jack Matthews argued that he is not really aware of such talk. "It's my belief," he noted that Panport had unsuccessfully bid on the contract to construct Terminal 3 in 1988, and that the bid review process this time was similarly lengthy, thorough and competitive.

Under the terms of the agreement, PDC holds a 15-year lease on the two terminals with an option to renew it for an additional 29 years. The federal government is paid an annual rent based on a percentage of gross revenues at a fixed maximum amount—whatever is higher. Ottawa now receives revenue of \$23.6 million a year from the two terminals. In the first year of the lease, it will be \$25 million, although it will defer \$5 million in rent over the first seven years of the lease to ensure that construction starts immediately. Transport Canada will costing as, as it has at four other airports, to run as early and as efficient functions.

At the same time, Ottawa has requested proposals for the \$100-million construction of three new runways at Pearson. The Matthews Group and its Panport partner, Pan Atlantic Ltd., are among the groups bidding for this contract, which must be submitted by November. With so many other airport managers, Head says, there could be complications. "We're concerned about the co-ordination of efforts among various departments and agencies," he said. Gordon Stucker, president of the Ottawa-based Air Transport Association of Canada added, "In aviation business you can't afford to have one of the many issues leading up to these discussions and disruptions." For the current and future managers of Canada's largest airport, the early warning system is already on alert.

DEBORAH McNALLY

Business Notes

BELL DIVIDED INCREASE

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission denied Bell Canada permission to raise basic local telephone rates by an average 9.0 per cent, or \$3.65 a month per household, in Ontario and Quebec. Comtel, a division of Keith Speer said that the agency noted "to ensure that Canadian telephone subscribers are not asked to pay unadjusted increases."

TARGET: CHRYSLER

Canadian Auto Workers Union president Buzz Baeyens announced that the union has picked Chrysler Canada Ltd. in its strike target in its current round of negotiations with the Big Three auto leaders. Contracts for 36,000 unionized Canadian employees at Chrysler, Ford and General Motors expire on Sept. 14. Baeyens said that the union has the best chance of making gains at Chrysler because it is the most successful of the three.

PRINCE FRIED

Shares in Standard Technologies Inc., a new branch by welding machine company headed by Vancouver millionaire Edgar Kaiser, plunged by 50.25 (U.S.) to close the week at \$11.25 on the New York City-based NYSE/AMEX exchange following a critical article in the U.S. weekly investment newspaper. David's Howard has also withdrawn all shares from the Vancouver Stock Exchange. Howard's share price soared in August based on rosy sales predictions by management. But the newspaper said that it has sampled from a prototype machine contained a "glitchless god."

HORTON WILDS THE AXE

Northern Telecom Ltd. announced from its headquarters in Mississauga, Ont., that it will close two of its 10 Canadian plants—a telephone factory in London, Ont., and a components plant in Amherst, N.B., employing 750 people. Earlier, the company had announced that it would eliminate 5,200 jobs worldwide after it posted a \$1.3-billion second-quarter loss.

REAL ESTATE WICKS

The Royal Bank of Canada increased its net real estate loan exposure for the year by \$40 million to \$1.25 billion. The bank said that most of the funded loans involve programs in the Toronto area. The Royal's profit for the first nine months of its financial year rose by 20 per cent to \$729 million.



Change, not promises, will count this time

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

Elections are popular phenomena. They leave the political landscape of a nation at a given moment in flux, its results fairly recently reflecting a portion of the mood, tensions and, above all, unrelated suggestions of a people in transition.

Seldom, if ever before, has an election been called at a time Canadians felt themselves—individually and collectively—to be undergoing such a profound transformation. The world is changing as we walk in it. Nearly all of the old certainties that kept our life alive in our youth have found sailing. The big five charter banks can run by capital headships when we treated as our fiscal father confounders, hara kiri to be self-deluded chauvinists who left society to marginal characters like the Reichenbach brothers, without even placing at their backs slaves. Our parents—at least some of them—once the pillars of our society, turn out to have been born much more interested in other boys' bodies. Many of us politicians are so bereft of sexual authority that even if they admit it've been lonely, nobody believes them.

That's Canada in this Indian summer of our discontent.

at the edges

Canada is a blessed land still in this Indian summer of our discontent, but is coming apart at the edges

can no more winds rhyme an "warm" call for "renewed dedication" to whatever cause comes up on the campaign政坛。

Only those politicians who inject their campaign with a truly rare of treat, bare-bones honesty, compassion and hard-rock truth will keep rated donations from being thrown at them. This is not going to be one of those traditional election campaigns, which by their very nature tend to become bidding contests—quadrupedal contests of between electors and their own money. That time the country has to be sold to face the facts, however uncomfortable they may be.

They cannot do this in the old-fashioned way of trumpeting lists of remarkable promises. The first law of politics is the art of making the necessary promises, that the treasury cap-heads have. Any politician who promises anything that has a significant price tag attached to it is lying. We can't afford to mention the social agenda we have, much less encumber it. This country isn't just financially bankrupt; it's broke, bankrupt, insolvent.

What we need is a perforce moment as a political leader shrewd enough to understand that the old politics is dead. That

Professor since 1983 and his familiar boast is as predictable as it is boring: "I was born, Clarity," he keeps repeating, "We chose it all." Often Chretien actually says a study version of the above: "I've served Canada well for 30 years. It's a blessing that you've spent your life serving the Canadian people, that's a very happy notion."

Finally, it is a "very dangerous nation," because most informed Canadians can't possibly think of any worse self-concept than a politician that is so blind that he or she is responsible for what's happened to this country in the past three decades. But Chretien may not be a terrible enigma—he even a great line-dancer—but at least she's relatively fresh, and still has an unopened shelf life.

The 1993 election to be called this week will be fought on two interrelated levels. The prime issue will be trying to get the economy moving again so that the \$15 billion jobless Canadians can start to hope and plan their lives again. The greater clash will be between which of the main levers can project her as himself as an agent of change. Only 364 days before election day—on October 16, 1993—Canadians voted against the Charlottetown accord, and what that vote was about had little to do with constitutional motives. Instead, it was a bold and unavoidable declaration that most Canadians were opting out of the status quo and would no longer either defer to their elites or follow their policies.

It's that realization that Campbell has to harness. Her successful *swimmer theatre* (she was just that) was just that—a way of showing off her beauty, trying to prove to voters at large that she is a research—a caring and interesting woman not afraid to say what she feels, instead of what some glibster—with sweat-palms under her armpit

At the moment, a Tory majority is not in the cards. Because Lucifer Bourassa's Bloc Québécois is still leading the polls in Quebec, and the Liberals will benefit from the weakness of NPD votes in Ontario, Campbell will have a tough time tapping the stage 10 seats required for a majority. That could mean the election of a minority government, with the Grits joining the NDP camp or the Tories teaming up with the handful of Liberals expected to win in Alberta and British Columbia.

Canada has elected six minority governments in the post-war years (1957, 1962, 1968, under John Diefenbaker, 1980 and 1982 under Lester Pearson, 1984 under Pierre Trudeau and 1989 under Jean Chrétien). While they make great political curiosities, minorities can be counterproductive. To win back his majority in 1972, Trudeau jacked federal spending up by an unprecedented 25 per cent. There wouldn't be room for that kind of extravagance in today's drama-light minority scenario, but the level of how the lack of a clear majority would drive politicians to overreach could send the Canadian dollar plummeting.

Every election is important. But this time, the risks have never been greater.

PEOPLE



Anninger: "The best thing to ever happen"

Return of the Champ

"My reasons for going to the warm vegetable," says renovation Harry Chappell. "Ed always wondered if I could play in what I thought were the big leagues." Coming off his coach job at the city's current affairs show *WS* in 1985 and spent 10 years with me as a correspondent in Frankfurt, London and Washington. But the "big leagues" are not what they used to be. "News coverage suffered, and it just wasn't as much fun," said Chappell. "Now, the Brandon, Man., native is returning to Canadian broadcasting as host of the CBC Morning News, which has been lagging behind *cTV's* *Canada AM* in the ratings. He plans for having the Halifax-based news show extend? "Not in the sense troubled by what Toronto [read off] thinks," replied Chappell. "Toronto will be happy if the ratings go up. If they go down, you're going to get fired anyway."



Chappell: "You're

A different kind of sultry

She sings sultry tunes about love and life. When Valerie Williams of Burlington, Ont., went to New York City to eat her first album, the producer said that he wanted her to record only love songs. At first, the star did not have much appeal. "But then," said Williams, 29, "I realized there are all different kinds of love songs." The Jannus is working. Her album *My Temptation*, made the Top 10 earlier this year, and her single *Look At Me In My Eyes* is now climbing the charts. Despite Williams' leaves home to play an audience at the 20th-anniversary bash for *So You Think You Can Dance*—she woke up a bit reluctantly, dressed and dressed, craved with her powerhouse voice and sultry sensibility. Part of her stage confidence comes from her experience—and exposure—of winning the Miss Black Ontario pageant in 1989. "After that," she said, "I guess I could do just about anything."



A teaser teased

Pierre Trudeau is a part master of the grand appearance. Last week at the Montreal Film Festival, he attended the screening of *Memories*, a three-part documentary series on the former prime minister's life and times, sporting a full beard that failed to dispel the gaze from the screen. During the screening, he was

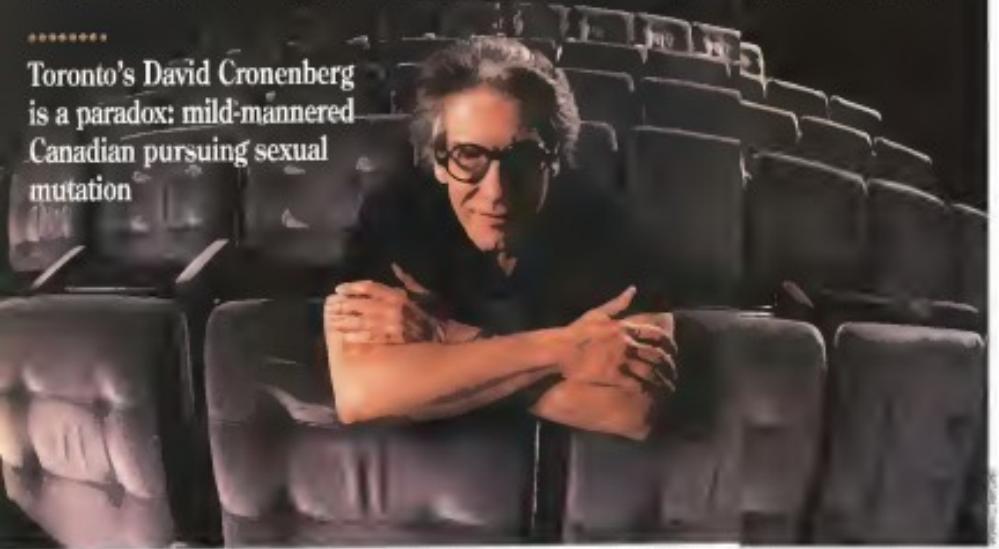


Trudeau: "I was crunched"

his foot did not connect. As for the documentary he came to see, Trudeau was characteristically blunt in his assessment: "It's crunched," he joked after the screening of the first—and reverent—episode of *Memories*, which was produced with his full co-operation. As for *event*, Trudeau will soon be telling his story in his own words. His memoirs, in book form, are due for release in September.

A DIRECTOR'S OBSESSION

Toronto's David Cronenberg is a paradox: mild-mannered Canadian pursuing sexual mutation



BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Last year, when David Cronenberg saw *The Cry Baby*, he watched with professional interest. He already knew what to look for.

"Some girls," says the Canadian director, who already tipped him off to the movie's celebrated scene depicting the surprise scene where the hero's date strips off her clothes and presents graphic evidence that she is the. At the time, Cronenberg was working on his own gender-bender movie, *M. Butterfly*, which opens the Festival of Festivals this week in Toronto. It is based on David Henry Hwang's 1988 Broadway play inspired by a strange but true story: a

French diplomat conducts a two-decade romance with a Chinese opera singer before realizing that his lover is a man. Unlike *The Cry Baby*, *M. Butterfly* lets its audience in on the secret from the start. It is a very different kind of movie. But, as Cronenberg told *Marlène* in a recent interview, *The Cry Baby* made his pulse—*not* the movie itself, which left him unimpressed, but the transcript. "She has an Adam's apple."

Chinese-American actor John Lone, who plays the cross-dressed don in *M. Butterfly*

plays the cross-dressed don in *M. Butterfly* does have an Adam's apple. And it proved to be a plus in the casting. "It was going shooting with *M.*'s" media Cronenberg, "because we had to be so careful about the light, the hair, the throat." As it turns out, Lone's female impersonation is more than convincing. It is a shrewd, seductive portrait of duplicity. Jeremy Irons, meanwhile, rounds himself in the diplomat with another basic, brilliant, shocking performance—an all-porn with his honed portrayal of two gynecologists in Cronenberg's *Dead Ringers* (1988). And to *M.*'s credit, Lone's *Cry Baby* marks another triumph in the time-lapse metamorphosis of a selectable career—a life that refines his obsession with sexual mutation and takes it to a new level.

Of the two dozen Canadian directors in

rolling new features at the recent Montreal World Film Festival (Aug. 26 to Sept. 6) and at the Toronto festival (Sept. 9 to 18), Cronenberg is the most worshipped. His film makers are offering evidence of a violent imagination—and of an obsessive fascination with sexual extremes (page 12).

In his own movies, Cronenberg has always treated the flesh as a kind of metaphor-

ical Play-Doh, life in motion for inventing creatures—the soft-tissue parasites that erupt from the body in *Shivers*, the insect drift that grows from a cancer out of Jeff Goldblum in *Titanic* (the copilot typewriter that creates aphorisms about sex in *Naked Lunch*). Even the movie's title in *Dead Ringers*, the doctor could not resist losing in an auto-genous disease sequence of a woman aborting a macaque fetus.

With *M. Butterfly*, he finally seems to have made a movie without effects, without creatures. Cronenberg, however, disagrees: "John is the creature," he claims, referring to the mysterious character created by Lone's dead skin. Still there is no creepy crawlies, nothing to offend the squeamish. *M. Butterfly* is the most pleasurable film of Cronenberg's career, even though the suggestion notes hint otherwise. "Doubt, I hope not," he says. "I guess after *Parasite* made a bunch of critics say, 'out of there' to the most pleasurable."

At 58, Cronenberg is a dignified figure for the master in other ways. Placed in China, Bangkok, Paris and Toronto, in the first dozen years of his career, he often ends up alone. Now, as the director pretenses his lead sequoia, architecture and nature lends the impetus to an impulse that goes beyond sex, living in his previous films. In fact, after Cronenberg uses a half-hour of footage to Hollywood to be cut into a trailer he received a call from an astonished David Goldfarb, the Hollywood mogul who financed *M. Butterfly*. "The trade made it look like a David Lynch picture," says Cronenberg. "They used every shot there was. They made it look like an Eric Geller phone-in and said, 'This is terrible. But is this stuff in the movie?' I said, 'Yeah, of course it is for movie.'"

Cronenberg, who insists on making the final cut of his movies, enjoys a rare autonomy in Hollywood. Moving along at the director's sole preference, Lone recalls that "Geffin and Warner Bros. [the distributor] left us completely alone. In the past, I've never done a film where there was no executive inolved." The actor, who has worked for some legendary filmmakers, including Terrence Malick and, told *Marlène* that Cronenberg "is the strongest director I've worked with. He's really severe and fearless."

Irons, too, has high praise for him. "He's interested in exploring the edges of behavior," he said in a phone interview last week from Barcelona, where he is shooting a new film. "He spins and Daniel gets a good spin on anything he does. He surprises me." Adds Irons, "One of the things about working with Daniel is he makes it a very happy experience. He is confident enough in what he's doing in order relatively open-minded to any particular scene and allow it to germinate, and be created by the people involved as we're doing it. That is a big luxury."

That serenity on the set seems palpable

in the final product. Despite its exotic location shots, *M. Butterfly* unfolds in intimate drama. And when Cronenberg edits it cuts to the bone, lending an elliptical quality to the narrative. He stages his photographs in a developing tray, keeping certain lens focus lost after the film circuits have railed.

Walking through a short-and-a-half block past a white, Chinese temple sits in his Toronto office, a spacious space above a storefront. Generic white furniture. White walls, bare but for a poster of *Naked Lunch*. Nothing to give you away, the director reflects in an unassuming tone. He says he does not want to carry on much on his family—he's a Hollywood transplant in Canada. This round went to a son, now 10, or his children, aged 22, 23 and 25.

As he lists the ages, he chuckles. "Even just telling you that makes me uncomfortable," he says. "There's absolutely about it. It's just funny."

He is also, after all, an lone in a location outside

Canada. And the absent presence of local sequoia, architecture and nature lends the impetus to an impulse that goes beyond sex, living in his previous films. In fact, after

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Those who have seen Cronenberg's *Blow*

*M. Butterfly*: a tale of strange love

Special Report

are somewhat surprised to meet him. They expect a scoundrel with a tortured past. In fact, he is charming and articulate, and wants us to hear a very wonderful childhood—great leaders and living parents from both deceased. His father, Max, was the *Florida Telegram's* staff columnist for 30 years. His mother, Esther, was a pianist who accompanied choirs and dances. Cronenberg, who began acting “unpaid short stints” in high school, says that “in contrast to the muscular male stars naturally, I can’t imagine how anyone could have been in, once you realize what the nature of life are.”

A top student, Cronenberg was sent between schools and universities after a year of studying both. He ended up at McMaster, graduating from the University of Toronto with his MFA in 1986. In the meantime, he tried being a novelist, but it never panned out. Cronenberg, who has written two novels, *After the Rain* (1984) and *The Fly* (1986), has discovered film making, in which he believes to assert his own voice fully.

After making several experimental films, Cronenberg took a cult following in the early 1980s by writing and directing low-budget horror movies, including *Shivers*, *Rabid*, *The Brood* and *Phantasm*. In 1985 Robert Redford lured him to *Silence of the Lambs* in a non-negotiable deal. “You should

know how bad this film is, after all you paid for it.” The \$180,000 movie, subsidized by public funds, came five years back to investors with earnings of \$5 million. It took a little longer for audiences to earn some respect.

With the release of *The Fly* in 1986, Cronenberg’s unique blend of biological horror affected the mainstream. The movie

isn’t, but the buzz died at the box office. Although Cronenberg has had only one big commercial hit, he is demand. He has turned down offers to direct a number of movies that become blockbusters, including *The Godfather*, *Beverly Hills Cop*, *Aladdin*—and, more recently, *The Fly*. “I just lots of scripts float around them in Hollywood,” says Cronenberg, “but I’m flattered. But they’re just not the ones I want to do. I don’t try again [because] I earn it down everything. But I’m not in financial difficulty. I know the message because of the freedom it represents, but I’m not greedy.”

Cronenberg also passed on an offer to direct *Interview with the Vampire*, the long-awaited adaptation of the Anne Rice bestseller instead. Ned Beatty, who wrote *The Crying Game*, will direct *Interview*—with Tim Roth as the star. Cronenberg had turned down the book originally. “I’d been told it was a modern retelling of *Vampirella*,” he says. “But when I started to read it, I didn’t find it very interesting. I found it very gushy and very established imagery.”

The story of *M. Butterfly*, however, immediately took him. His own play is loosely based on the stronger than the original of French diplomat Bernard Bonnard, who disguised himself as a woman to seduce Leontine, his lover. Cronenberg adds about *Naked Jewel* (1981), his newest adaptation of the Burroughs novel: “It’s the best of M. Butterfly. However, it’s not my play. It’s his.”

Two gyrocopters found dead? What? Chinese open anger/they love French diplomats and turn out to be a man over 20 years?

The director saw the play and found it “very cartoonish, like *Looney Tunes* and *Looney Toons*—attitudes fighting each other.” But Hwang, who co-wrote the screenplay with Cronenberg, was amenable to changes. Hwang’s original theme, says the director, “is that we see the East in female and submissive and passive, which makes us feel strong and dominant. And I’m saying it’s more complex. That’s why I hate politics—because people stick at the solutions to make a point.” Adds Cronenberg: “The play is more overtly political than the movie. And it’s conceivable someone might accuse me of politicizing it.”

M. Butterfly is the first Cronenberg film that is, above all, a love story. But Cronenberg stresses that it is both a romance and a subversion of romantic love—you have the emotion, but you also have the tools to dismantle it, to dig deeper and understand it through it.

“The relationship between René [Bardet] and Song [Lana] is built on layers of suspicion and denial. And this isn’t just as the conception of person by another,” explains Cronenberg. “It’s the disconnection of two people by themselves.”

On some level, *M. Butterfly* is a story of repressed homosexual passion. Like *David Bowie*, Bill is both flesh, Cronenberg seems

content on transcending gender. “It’s not a matter of gay or straight,” he says. “Sexuality, for humans, is an invention. One of the lies in the play and in the movie that I have is, ‘Only a man knows how a woman is supposed to act.’ What does that mean? It’s not just that men impose their idea of female sexuality on women. There’s a strange collaboration is

but later in the story play a decidedly masculine game. “It was two tricks I had in, do, not one,” says the director. In *The Crying Game*, he adds, sonic fire in the shot of the inmates’ teeth’s pencils, “which is a version of the way through the circle—which is why, if you see it was such a motherfucking film for a lot of middle-class North Americans who would have normally been put off by a homosexual love story.”

Cronenberg has made a career out of threatening the values of middle-class North America. Yet in his own way he has become a kind of Canadian institution. He has achieved a strange sort of respectability. He is a director who has it all with the Hollywood deal without selling his soul. And his body of work seems to have a kind of biological integrity: even the prangs from his movies, including the Mayanwari creatures from *Night of the Living Dead* and the surgical instruments from *Dead Ringers*, have been rendered as a travelling exhibition, exhibited prominently this week at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Will anyone stain Cronenberg’s edge? He claims not. “I guess I’m the kind of person who always feels he’s on the verge of being arrested,” he says. “I think I’m constantly living with danger in what I do.” And, for a director who has driven a racing car into a concrete wall, there is still nothing quite as dangerous as a strange idea... □



David Cronenberg's *Biological Art*—\$180,000

©



M. Butterfly (1993) — with Jeanne Tripplehorn, Ben Kingsley

create a male image and a female image that complement works for both, and it’s constantly being adjusted. Why? Because there’s no absolute masculinity and femininity.”

Before casting *Lara*, Cronenberg auditioned transsexuals and transvestites. But he couldn’t find the right balance. He needed an actor who could pass for a woman

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Super Lens

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SEXUAL EXTREMES

The new homegrown movies seem to have sex on the brain



Between Montreal and Toronto, film festivals chose to branch their programs with movies about gender-bending. The Montreal World Film Festival (Sept. 26 to Sept. 30) opened with *Le sexe des drames*, a drama about a 17-year-old girl grappling with the fact that her father has become a transsexual. Toronto's Festival of Festivals (Sept. 9 to 18) opens this week with Crossenberry's *M. Fletcher*, a romantic tragedy about a man in love with a woman who is really a man.

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Perhaps it is something in the water or a hormonal surge in the air atmosphere. Something strange is happening in Canadian cinema. Last year, the two festivals in Montreal and Toronto really wowed new work by Canadian directors. Until now, certain traditions were observed. There would be bittersweet coming-of-age stories like *My American Cousin*, encouraging romances like *The Fly* and grim histories

epics like *Atanarjuat* and *Black Water*. And under the backdrop of acclaimed war angst, there would be a crazy erotica leaning a far insect-like a tropical parasite, but occasionally surfacing in glow, by Alain Resnais or Atom Egoyan. Now, it seems to be out in the open. At a number of Canadian cinemas has sex on the brain. There is more of it in this year's crop than in the past 10 years combined. Sets of all descriptions. Straight sex, gay sex and screwballish sex. Toronto's sexual pathology and political sex. Toronto's sex—and transsex, located sex, located sex—a sodomimetic finish of the police roulette, from the provocative *Zeta Fletcher*

to the horrifically graphic *Paula, Paula*, a twisted *Last Tango* of erotic banality.

Cameron Bailey, program coordinator for the Toronto International Film Festival, Canada's sex says that this year "sex has been taken to an extreme that I haven't seen in Canadian movies." No one knows exactly why. But Bailey has a theory. "Maybe



I Love a Man in Uniform: Lorraine Reznick (opposite), dancing sensually

a surreal musical about AIDS, is the exceptionally graphic Paula, Paula, a twisted Last Tango of erotic banality.

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Canadian filmmakers have finally figured out that they can't afford big car chases, elaborate sets and big stars," he says. "What can they afford to do so it's cheap? Well . . . sex. It's not exploitative sex. They're interested in exploring ideas and characters. And if they can do it cheaply, it makes perfect sense. It's amazing that we haven't thought of this before."

What attracted him to Travers's play says

The new fascination with sex may also be part of a shift away from the country's documentary tradition—and an alignment with the extreme interests of Cronenberg. For a long time, he was a voice in the wilderness. His contemporaries, directors like Don Shubin (*Gasoline*, *Drive the Rain*) and Dan Trezza (*Slippery Blood*, *Goodbye*), pioneered Canadian cinema in the late 1980s with honest depictions of lost innocence, stories that reflected the National Film Board's 1970 documentary legacy. "Cronenberg's obsession is always looking below the surface," says Paul Huddart, deputy director at the Festival of Festivals. "And the nature was associated with documentary life." But as the STV's influence wanes, the new generation is seeking inspiration elsewhere, Huddart suggests. "At this point in time, Cronenberg seems to be the central figure," he says.

Quebec, of course, is a special case. And its vibrant cinema has always had a healthy libido. In 1990, Quebec director Denis Arcand scored a hit with *The Doyle of the American Empire*, a weird, ribald comedy about a dinner party devoted to sexual constipation. Now, with *Lore* and *Bonne Riveuse*, he has made his first English-language movie, with a script that Edmondian playwright Brian Friel adapted from his own ill-fated *Godspell*—*Bonne Riveuse* and *The Native of Love*.

It is a clearly comic drama focused on two friends who share an apartment: David, a gay after-hours writer with a cynical wit, and Cindy, a dark minister who passionately finds fulfilment with the books he reads—and the women she dates. "I was curious what will happen again for my own," she tells David, who responds to her by "using during straight men." A parade of characters comes in and out of their lives: a lesbian fixated on Cindy, a lecherous brother, a psychotic dominatrix and a misogynist crewman. In the shadows, a serial killer stalks the street.

Under Arcand's direction, a cerebral satire about a weekend in the country, *Lore* and *Bonne Riveuse* seem to consist of a combination of discordant lines, a willed disarray in which everything is a stranger. The sex scenes are deliberately cold and unfulfilling. David gabbles with AIDS in a gay disco, a slave leaves a leather boot in a Jerry's lingerie. "This film is not about erotica at all," Arcand told Marianne's over lunch in Montreal. "People fall in bed together and they don't really know why. They do it because there's a physical urge, that's right, for they sleep."

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Special Report

Arcand, was as explosive. His wife—and a source of repeated snarls that he "cannot earn a buck"—is the English-Canadian art "English-Canadians have this view of themselves as very staid," he says. "But in this movie you have Brad Fraser and Judith Thompson. In the film, Cronenberg and Egoyan? These people are sexual. Look at [West] Collie—on the surface, hyperrealistic painting, but you can't find more anguish, more threatening violence."

Arcand was eager to film *Last and Lowest* in Edmonton. But after an Alberta flooding drill fell through, he had to restage himself to working on location in Montreal. The director has portrayed his home town as never before, as a cold, anonymous city without a hint of a landmark or a French accent—a concrete hell of expressways, culverts, tunnels and parking garages where the only brothers I witnessed ex-freedom rings. "Life is dangerous at all in these cities," says Arcand. "Last is dangerous. You can get AIDS. You can get sterilized. You can get beaten up. It's a hard sport."

In *I Saw A Man in Uniform*, writer/director David Wellington films his own city, Toronto, with the same kind of chilling吝啬。While Arcand says MacCredie gave him bare, subterranean concrete, Wellington's camera finds sterile surfaces of steel and glass, reflecting Toronto as reflections of consciousness. "The film ends," says the director, "in that between all these clean, orderly buildings, there's a hole."

Egoyan, a hot star at the Cannes Film Festival last May, is a more philosophical director. *Tau Macan* is a surreal psychological drama. Tau Macan is a tortured, slightly perverted character in Henry, a hotel clerk, who has aspirations to be a poet. He gradually strips down to his core in a cheery TV cruise series—only to start to wear his uniform, and his weapon, on the street. His method-acting career probably gets out of hand. He takes his revenge in bed. Armed with the same grottoes Hollywood might have turned the movie into a vulgar chick-flick. *The Lover* subdues violence into existential suspense. And beneath it all is an unerring sense of humour.

Wellington says that the idea for the film came from a modest, that he witnessed last night in a Montreal alley: "I saw a cop being serviced by a prostitute in his cruiser," he recalls. "It really gave me the creeps." In the movie, Henry makes a fetish of his revolver.



Photo: Vernon Patterson/Visuals Unlimited

**At Toronto's film festival,
the characters will be peeling back
the frontiers of sex—and sanity**

op, wacky science-fiction set in a sweltering sauna—presented in a startling visual design that incorporates eye charts, architecture and synchronized swimming.

The script's point of departure is the wide-

spread media speculation that a gay French Canadian fight attendant (shobab Patrice Test) brought the first case of AIDS to North America in the late 1970s. The lurid story has become at the usual loss of narrative density. The central character is Sir Richard Francis Burton (Gérard Depardieu), the real-life Victoria explorer and zoologist who had an anthropological obsession with mounting penis size.

Mysteriously alive 170 years after his birth, Burton is working at a natural history museum. And he needs a hot attraction to headline the Hall of Comparisons, an exhibition on diseases done through the ages. The "Fittest Zero" case fits the bill. But as Burton prepares his display, various facts with great gusto, zero's ghost (Marion Foucault) shows up to set the record straight and to reveal the source of the media establishment as a cover-up trial. Behind all the scoop-and-blame satire, he develops a curious, researched poème condensé that evokes a sense of blithe. "But with villains that have names like Dr Macchio and Gilbert Hilliard Pharmaceuticals, zero's power never loses its acerb of humor."

Another movie without pretension is the twists of *Canadian Bacon* in Paul, Fonda, but on an entirely different level. Directed by Toronto-based filmmaker Gerald Gouriet, it presents more graphic nudity and sex than has ever been seen in a Canadian movie since the exploitation boom. The actors add up to a motley crew of stereotypical characters of farce, feckless, certifiable, and sex, hankie-waving homophiles, delicious fat, pale, shrill, come-the-dragon to group sex. There's even the occasional can. Admitted by writer Tom Waldman from his own novel, Paul, Fonda is a comic drama about an author named Lucy (Leslie Hope), who embarks on a sexual and cerebral odyssey to achieve a major case of writer's block. The story spins an Easter weekend. While Lucy has an affair with a sexually omnivorous man (Peter Outerbridge), her publisher finished *Writer's Block* with it into a rancorous oral-female liaison.

Overstuffed and overcooked, the movie is a howling collision between crass and crassification, between the naked and the verboseness. By contrast, *Westworld* is not precisely

Continued on page 36

AN ADVERTISING AND INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT TO THE
SEPTEMBER 15 EDITION OF MACLEAN'S MAGAZINE

TELECOM 2000



Virtually everyday, headlines report on happenings in the telecommunications industry. Often, we read of innovative new technologies, like Apple Canada's recent announcement of its AV Technologies that bring telecommunications technologies to the desktop computer. Just as often, stories feature the results of the deregulation of Canadian telecommunications—the powerful new alliances or the power struggles between industry players. While it's impossible to cover the entire telecommunications arena, this report offers a sampling of the telecommunications innovations that will guide Canadian businesses and consumers into the next century.

Dialing for Dinner

AC-STAR™ DELIVERS FOR
PANZEROTTO & PIZZA!

Separate phone numbers made operations very labour intensive," explains Joseph Schiavone, director of marketing and a partner in the 30-store chain.

Ensuring company-wide standards was difficult as store staff were too busy dealing with phone orders to provide the sales information needed to run the business.

Independent phone numbers also presented a hurdle for marketing efforts.

By 1987, Panzerotto & Pizza needed a more efficient telecommunications solution. Schiavone realized that maintaining market share demanded a centrally managed phone number and a "Call Centre" with operators handling on-site calls. "We first looked at the Autotrac Call

Thanks to a "Call Centre" telecommunications solution from Bell Canada, Toronto-based Panzerotto & Pizza is getting a good slice of the consumer's growing fast food dollar.

However, just as things have changed in the 17 years since the company opened its first store, so have phones. Offering and delivering pizza was not always as simple

"For our first ten years, our stores took phone-in orders for their geographic areas

Meet Katie

She's used 18 telephones,
3 voice mail systems, 9-1-1
services and 317 kilometers
of fibre optic cable.
And that was all before
she took her first breath.



NORTHERN TELECOM SYSTEMS

Before Katie was even delivered, she became one of Northern

Telecom's best customers. It all started the moment Katie's mother

phoned her husband at work. That little act started a sequence of events almost

impossible for the mind to comprehend. Messages were sent through hundreds of

wires and left on voice mail systems. Data was transmitted over fibre

optic cables. Medical files were relayed to computers. And a banking

machine dispensed money to pay for a teddy bear. But it doesn't stop there. In the

years to come, Katie and other Canadians can continue to look to Northern

Telecom and its partners in the communications industry for ground-breaking



NORTHERN TELECOM

products and technology. And not just because we have a commit-

ment to our customers, but to the future of Canada as well.



The logo is a registered trademark of Northern Telecom.

Distribution (ACD) technology which major organizations use to distribute calls among large groups of telephone agents," recalls Schausman.

Until last year, ACD required a considerable investment in a private trunk line and a PABX, a switching system that runs a site's telephone system.

Schauseman recalls that this was not the ideal solution:

"We had no way of knowing which of the incoming call had been held longest and it was impossible to gauge how many calls we were losing or why. Managing staff and determining whether to add additional staff or phone lines was guesswork."

A year ago, Schausman's vision of an efficient Call Centre became a reality. Bell introduced the ACD-Star, which combines the highly touted *Nurse®* telephone system, with an ACD precursor (a microcomputer) that manages the system, all operational on a standard business line and available on a lease basis. Pianorotto & Plaza enhanced the current and future Call Centre functionality by operating its ACD-Star on Bell Connect lines.

With the ACD-Star, Schausman and his brother, Paul, who manage the Call Centre operations, have transformed their phone system into an efficient operations and marketing tool.

First, the ACD-Star ensures that all calls are answered by an operator or by the recorded message after two rings. No calls are lost to busy signals or a delayed answer. The computer monitors each agent's time and directs each call, in sequence, to the next available agent. The computer automatically checks back to people on hold and plays a message that encourages them to wait.

With the Centre's Call Forward, Pianorotto & Plaza can automatically redirect calls to an outside location.

With just a day's training by their Bell Canada representative, the Schausmans had mastered the system. The status display, run on an easy to use Windows® (TM) based software and the Nurse telephone guides them through a voice menu to set-up messages.

The ACD-Star means no more missed ringing,

throughout the phone room — the workload is distributed among agents and phones only ring at the desk of the next available agent.

With the Nurse phone sets built-in display, combined with Bell's Call Display feature, they see the incoming phone number which speeds up the order entry process. Another display allows operators to know which of *Pianorotto & Plaza's* numbers the caller dialed. The ACD-Star's ease-of-use means that new agents require minimal training to become efficient team members.

With a menu that's growing to meet the tastes of today's consumers and a telecom system that's primed to deliver efficiency and productivity, Pianorotto & Plaza's ready for your call!

Public Cordless Telephone Service

MOBILITY FOR THE MASSES

It wasn't that long ago that the Dick Tracy wrist-watch telephone was part of the imaginary world of science fiction. At the time, telephones were black, bulky and anything but mobile.

That was then. Today, the telephone has become a sophisticated communications device with a myriad of features. One of the most significant developments in telephone technology, however, is about to occur — Public Cordless Telephone Service (PCTS).

In 1994, digital cordless telephone technology will usher in a new era of personal mobile communications, allowing the owner, for the first time, to use the same digital telephone at home, in the office and in public areas.

The federal government has issued licenses to four companies to provide Public Cordless Telephone Service. Telesonic Corporation, Comsat Paptron Corporation, Mobility Communications Canada Ltd. and Roger Caron Mobile Inc.

People will be able to place or receive calls at



Personal mobile communications
offer users both convenience
and personal security.

home and at work with no cost for "air time," or at public locations with the same portable handset at minimal air time cost.

The telephones will be easy to use with simple service options. Since the handset can operate at a low power it will be relatively inexpensive, with air time charges as low as 25 per cent of cellular service costs.

The initial cost for the handset is expected to be the same as today's high-end analog cordless telephones. Unlike their portable analogue predecessors, digital cordless phones will provide high quality transmission, greater range and better security from eavesdropping.

People will be more accessible with a cordless telephone, but they won't be slaves to incessant telephone calls. Users will be able to use their telephones with other communications devices. They will be able to pre-program the calls they receive, call forward incoming calls to other locations, to their pager or to a personal voice mail box.

Digital cordless telephones also offer a new way for family members to stay in touch. The small size and low cost of the handsets will enable children to take a telephone with them whenever they go.

Another attractive feature of the technology is that subscribers will be able to make calls to cellular and traditional wire-line telephone at no inconvenience or extra cost. Owners will be able to use their digital cordless handsets to make calls in any city that has PCTS, and receive calls from anywhere in the country or world.

Public cordless telephone service, will link pocket-sized telephones to base stations connected to the public switched network. People will be able to place and receive calls within the zone covered by these base stations which will be located in shopping malls, subway, airports, streets, lecture facilities and other public sites.

A national public cordless network consists of thousands of base stations in selected locations throughout Canada cities.

PCTS suppliers will offer a wide range of value-added services to meet varied customer needs. Telezone, for example, plans to offer a number of

special services such as paging and voice mail, customer service centres, hotlines, free experimental time and contact billing.

The promise of PCTS is more mobility, convenience, productivity and security to the average Canadian. People may not have their telephones on their wrists but, like Dick Tracy, they will be able to stay in touch at the home or office, on the street, in the subway or any other place in a city.

By Robert Koenig, President,
Telesonic Corporation, Toronto

Toll Fraud

THE DARK SIDE OF TELECOM WIRELESS

Teletelecommunications technology is often portrayed as the modern world's savior. However, there is a dark side to the wireless story with a cast of characters who own sophisticated telecommunications systems for pleasure, profit and profit.

Much like their better-known counterparts computer hackers, phone pirates have their hands in the cookie jars of major corporations and organizations. In North America, phone pirates are stealing an estimated \$3 billion a year in long distance services!

In fact, chances are that several Canadian companies lost between \$10,000 and \$30,000 to toll fraud over the most recent half day weekend. Holidays are the perfect time for phone pirates as spectrum administrators are away.

Gerry Steiner is the general manager of satellite regional operations for the national telephone interconnect company, Telecommunications Terminal Systems, a subsidiary of Northern Telecom. According to Steiner, "The existence of

victims adds to the misconception that phone pirates are not as perverse and dangerous as the numbers show. In fact, the lack of publicity keeps many businesses from implementing the safety barriers that could keep losses cut, or at least, minimize the damage."



If you're responsible for a phone system, you should know what you can do to prevent toll fraud.

TeleCon'93 Showcase

EXPANDING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

The telecommunications industry in Canada is moving more quickly than most organizations can adapt. Fortunately, there is a five-day conference and trade exposition that features the latest in telecom products and services.

TeleCon'93, Partnerships for Prosperity, takes place at Montreal, September 12 - 16, at the Palais des Congrès. Will be your guide to the ever changing Canadian telecom marketplace.

Organized by the Canadian

Business Telecommunications Alliance (CBTA), TeleCon '93 features over 170 national and international exhibitors. In addition to this, delegates will be able to choose from more than 50 seminars, covering the hottest topics and issues in telecom today.

For the first time, TeleCon will offer government attendees a special comprehensive two-day seminar series, enabling them to meet counterparts from across the country.

The CBTA is a non-profit

organization that has worked on behalf of business telecommunications customers for the past 35 years. A major voice in the Canadian telecom industry, the CBTA represents more than 340 organizations from all sectors of the Canadian economy.

For more information about TeleCon'93, Partnerships for Prosperity, contact the CBTA, 13 Toronto Street, Suite 202, Toronto, Ontario M5C 2E3. Telephone (416) 965-9993 or Facsimile (416) 965-0839.

If you're responsible for a phone system, you should know what you can do to prevent toll fraud. The first step is to recognize the various subtypes of phone phony's and their modus operandi.

Shoulder Surfers spend their time in public areas that have lots of pay phones. Airports are excellent locations for observing calling card numbers or DIBA (phone number and access codes).

DIBA or Direct Inward System Access is a feature that's available on the internal phone systems or PBX (private branch exchange) of businesses. It's designed to save long-distance charges and provides a link to an outside line for mobile or home-based workers.

Shoulder Surfers with stolen DIBA phone numbers and codes dial into a company's PBX system and are passed through to a DIBA port to an outside line where they can run up thousands of dollars in long-distance calls.

The Super Engineers are a more extraneous species who pose as fellow corporate employees and talk employees for access codes to help solve a non-existent PBX system problem. Or they'll pretend to be a travelling employee and ask a company switchboard operator to pass them through to an outside line.

Instead of "charting up" unscrupulous employees, the Duesman Detectives dig deep into departmental administrative reports that list costs, calling card numbers and other valuable data.

The most sophisticated of the phone phony's are the closest kin to the computer hackers. Their technique is to use a computer modem to dial up

telephone numbers until they reach a number that answers like a DIBA number.

Voice mail systems provide another easy for toll thieves and predators. Some systems are set up so that an employer can call in for their messages and dial out to make a long distance call.

Don't think that a voice mail system that doesn't allow red-dialing protects you. There is not the only nefarious telecom activity. Organized criminals set up their own mailboxes on corporate voice mail systems.

While the threat of toll fraud is real, protecting your assets and your image doesn't have to be difficult, asserts Steinert, whose organization has installed more than 1,300 PBXs and 270 voice mail systems.

"For many companies, the greatest difficulty in setting up phone physical barriers can be the corporate culture. Companies like my communications and don't want to hinder employee access."

Given the risks, Steinert's tips are worth considering. He advises to make things difficult for hackers, by lengthening the DIBA code numbers or changing them on a regular basis. Systems can also be set up to restrict long distance calling.

To protect voice mail systems, users should be trained to frequently change their messages and their passwords. And system administrators should routinely check for unused or assigned numbers.

For added protection and quick detection of toll-fraud activity, Steinert points to SwitchView, a family of telemanagement products that works

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with a company's PBX system. SwitchView allows companies to define "alarm" conditions for potentially fraudulent calls.

Another SwitchView module monitors activity on the PBX transmission port, so that hackers' attempts to turn off a computer system or set up DBA access are immediately detected.

"It takes an arsenal of built-in technological controls, revamped system administration procedures and employee awareness to combat toll fraud," says Steiner.

VISIT

GIVING TECHNOLOGY A
FRIENDLIER FACE

The telephone and the computer are two tools that virtually every business — regardless of size, structure or products — needs to operate. With VISIT video, a radio-radio telecommunications product from Northern Telecom, these ubiquitous tools are becoming strategic business and technical partners.

VISIT increases the productivity and efficiency of employees, while improving the effectiveness of technology and other operating budgets. With VISIT, colleagues can talk to one another face-to-face and work on various documents, without leaving their desks. The customer's dilemma of choosing which meeting to attend, and which to forge is solved. Groups of people can "meet" on VISIT simultaneously.

"VISIT will change the way people communicate," says Derek Pruda, Northern Telecom's director of marketing for VISIT. "It will be a benefit for organizations trying to build teams of people who are geographically dispersed."

VISIT video delivers real-time video, screen-sharing and file transfer capabilities, plus a range of telephone management features. Unlike similar technologies which operate over computer networks, VISIT is available wherever a business telephone line exists.

Using standard telephone lines, business col-

leagues see the person they're speaking to within a window on the computer screen.

Using VISIT's screen-sharing facility, employees can work on documents that appear simultaneously on their computer screens. They can discuss changes as they make them.

VISIT can be used to create and run presentations. The system takes high-resolution "snapshots" of any video image, which can be sent to another location or "cut and pasted" into presentations.

Many large companies are in the process of installing VISIT for groups of employees in central branch and employee's own "home" offices.

One of VISIT's pioneers is Joel Szwedlow, communications analyst with the Technology, Planning and Development Group of The Royal Bank of Canada. Szwedlow has been using VISIT (now the Telephase system management component) for over a year.

"Using VISIT, I control my telephone and voice mail system through my computer. I've created multiple directories of fellow employees, suppliers, etc., which allow me to point-and-click my mouse to find a number and place a call."

The system logs all incoming and outgoing calls, storing vital information, such as the time, date and duration of the call. The hour to people who bill by their time, the system can be set up to calculate a dollar value for each conversation.

It can also be used to monitor the performance of telephone staff.

Szwedlow also points to the value of VISIT voice-call screening and calling number identification features, which "allow me to take only important calls, when I'm extremely busy. Also, I know when people have called but have not left a message."

Currently VISIT, which sells for approximately \$3750, operates on Apple Macintosh and IBM compatible computers with Microsoft Windows. The complete system includes software, a video circuit board, cameras and cables.

In contrast to a customer's choice of network for public and private telephone networks

TELECOM 2000 was edited by Jo-Anne Aronoff, President of HOMECOMM Marketing Services, a Toronto-based marketing agency that assists companies targeting the home-office marketplace.



"VISIT increases the productivity and efficiency of employees while improving the effectiveness of technology and other operating budgets."



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Special Report

Shared on screen. But it is overripe with exotic tawdry. *Blissed*, naturally in Guyana, directed by Darryl Woolrych, has some acuity for H, a story of addiction. *Mosquito Beach* is a pantomime about Matthew (Michael Shor), a Toronto architect who returns to his Guyanese birthplace after his mother's death. A callous in search of his past, he begins to lose his grip in the tropical heat.

But what gives *Mosquito Beach* an unusual intimacy is a scene that shows Higgin going berserk: a brief but unforgettable shot of him masturbating, fully erect. *Sex Hormones*, with all the male male banter throughout, shows no erections—which, with so much excitement going on, seems odd. *Mosquito Beach* has its own share of ironies, but in the context of Shor's one, Oscar-nominating venture, the movie seems utterly appropriate.

Traditionally, sex is in the movies but focused on women—it's more precisely, women's bodies. But in the new Canadian movies, men are rediscovering the balance. In *Cap Towne*, Québec star Ray Dugal is the gay bandler at last year's *Boys At Home* (With Claude)—plays Alex, a dandified son who comes home to a combative ex-mom by his family on the Gaspé. St. Lawrence. Alex leaves after his sister, his mother and his best friend. In the opening scene, he greets the friend with a hard punch in the stomach, followed by a long kiss on the mouth.

A gentle, lonely drama, the movie is shot against a pastoral landscape, an empty stretch of Charlotteton coastline. Making his feature debut, director Michel Langlois finds poetry in both the season's swing and his stars' synapses—most acute when Alex suffers a spasm of running in and out of the water naked. But before his unexpected heading towards a character's psychology, Langlois wants to point out the physical art surrounds him.

In contrast, *La suite des étoiles*, by Quebec director Frédéric Back, is a thoroughly compelling drama. It is the story of Camille, a 13-year-old Montreal girl who lives with her mother and struggles to accept the fact that her father is now a transsexual named Marie-Pierre. The pretense strains gradually, but the movie is not.

Dean Merter is wholly credible as the father who wants his new gender with a forced aplomb. And Marivane-Capucine Merter (her relation), who makes her acting debut as Camille, conveys the grave emotion at early adolescence without even playing cute or coy. There is a no-nonsense underplay in Camille's look, somber face. And Luc Picard, who plays her considerate boyfriend, a leather boy with a lisp, looks

remarkably like her: they could be twins. As an amateur actress, Camille says "I like the way boys look at me because I'm a girl." She believes that the bottoms are also dotted with double stars and galaxies. "Everything works by couple—it's magic."

"Tracing elegant connections between

Gibraltar, often a much more conventional link, conflict between sons and family. Set in the early 1960s on Galiano Island, it is a slow, stately, intensely repressed school principal named Hal (R. H. Thomson), whose rural life quickly becomes suffocated with the arrival of a sexy new French-Canadian teacher (Mélanie Bernier Péladeau). She shows up in a VW van, wearing a miniskirt and carrying a suitcase. The children love her. And so does the principal, who leaps straight from a middle-class milie to affair.

Meanwhile, Hal's 10-year-old daughter works magic spells to try to set things right. Her teenage sister seeks solace at The Beach. And their long-suffering mother (Gloria McGehee) waits for Hal to blow over. *Lester Eaton*, though easily shot by director Paul Shapiro, is a precious, witty confection, a whetted three-

back to the kind of tale, cozy movies Canadians are expertly made. But considering the current state of around, Canadian cinema may have a different kind of reputation to live down. □



Zoë Palmer, Michael Langlois and Michael Shor



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RETURN OF THE SHARK

It is appropriately hot in Akron, Ohio—"Rubber City," and Greg Norman looks ready to melt. He has played competitive golf for 27 straight days, and still has five more wearing rounds before a much-needed week off, requested by a charity event before the Tex World Series of Golf; he turns over the Akron spectators' screaming against the horses around the 100° heat mark. He shows no sign of fearing a hot call: "Nice shot, Mr. Norman," when he has his first solid shot into the hole on a par-three (the second and third green, too, but by then the two have left off in tell a friend). On the way to the first tee, he does not seem to notice a bright-red sweater who, upon seeing him, points, grins, "I can't believe now. I've seen what I come to see. One of the first tee players." Norman is all smiles as he closes hands and poses for photographs with his amateur fans—aren't you glad it's in his turn to drive, be afraid of his audience? Norman has taken an odd reflex: a shot straight down the middle. So much for finesse: "I was very tired," he told MacLean's afterward. "But that's where pride comes into it. When you get yourself into this kind of position, you have to carry your self beyond where you think you are capable of going."

Norman has already gone where few sports personalities have ventured before. Around the world, the 35-year-old Australian known as the Great White Shark is rivaled only by the legendary Arnold Palmer in popularity among golfers, past or present. And according to published estimates of athletes' earnings, Norman's endorsement income ranks second only to basketball star Michael Jordan, whose bank account is blotted by a shoe contract that pays more than \$30 million annually. That profile motivates us share of friends. At Akron, for example, security broke down between the ninth green and 10th tee, and Norman was accosted by a swarm of autograph-seekers. Youths in tattered high-tops and women in not enough clothing thrust themselves and their laps and program into his face, kids darted recklessly in and out of the angle of legs. Norman somehow never broke stride, saying what he could before reaching the region of the ropes around the tee. "He's living under such a microscope—he is so heavily scrutinized," says fellow golfer Paul Adinger, currently the leading American on the PGA Tour. "I



find him, but Greg handles it beautifully."

If anything, the differences following the former No. 1 polar in the world are likely to get bigger still. After a 27-month period during which he fell into an uncharacteristic wadi-like slump, the Shark has sharpened his competitive teeth for another attack in the top. And in a certain extent, he has Canada in mind. It was a few years' Canadian Open at Glen Abbey in Oakville, Ont., that Norman broke out of his doldrums. He is particularly proud of that title, defeating Tom Travers (a player known to a series of very short). "It's so glad I won the Canadian Open in a playoff," says Norman, who's back at Glen Abbey this week to defend his title. "That did more for me than winning by three or four shots. What that told me was that I could play tough shots under a lot of pressure."

That victory launched off a chain reaction of success. He shot an improbable 63 on the opening round of the Johnnie Walker World Championship in January, beat David Feherty before losing to Nick Faldo in a playoff. He blew away the field at the British Open in Muirfield last March with a winning total that was five strokes better than the previous tournament record. He overwhelmed a star-studded leader board at the British Open in July with a final-round score of 64—a performance some golf historians called the greatest-ever final round in a major championship. As a measure of his consistency, he has finished seventh or better in 12 out of the 16 tournaments he has played in 1993, including his recent playoff loss in the PGA championship. And those are set to be more to come. "I think that Greg, in the next four or five years, is going to stay one of the top players in the world," says Nick Price of Zimbabwe, a longtime friend and the 1991 Canadian Open champion. "He's come in so sound, so solid. And he has his tail in 't'."

It has been a year. Norman returns to Canada a changed man. He still has the lean and rugged figure, the handworn, chiseled face, the predator's eyes and the thick white-blood hair. Although he has shortened his backswing, he still attacks the golf course with abandon. As he showed in losing a play-off to Adinger at last month's PGA championship, he remains gracious in defeat. And his known defect: He has suffered played losses in the Masters, the PGA and the U.S. and British opens—what has been called the Devil's Slammer. He has lost tournaments to opponents who seek seemingly impossible shots or land holes from bunkers, fingers or, once, from 180 yards back on the fairway. For years, he claimed that these losses did not get him down. But in the midst of his current, so-far faultless streak, he finally admitted that they had hurt him deeply. "I learned that the longer you just searching outside, the worse you are going to react to it," he says. "You might find

yourself at the park having had a few cocktails and, if someone hits you the wrong way with something in conversation, you just say 'It makes you look like a jerk.'

Norman also endures numerous stories spreading about the curse of his shark. Many suggested that he had worn himself thin with corporate outings and events around the world—an explanation that Norman emphatically denies. "My schedule on and off the golf course has not changed in a decade," he says. "I can say that I probably played less and the less, during that time, than in my previous time. But then, there are people who say and that I was on drugs." Norman laughs that one off, but friends say she's worth criticism as his many second-place finishes have been harder to take. "I think that Greg Norman can win the British Open and lose the PGA championship in a playoff and get lauded by the media," Adinger says. "I just think that people's es-

quissed. Norman took up golf in his mid-teens. By 20 he had informed his father that he had decided against joining the air force ("I wanted to fly F-117s") and would pursue a career in golf. "They always believed that my first thought was the right thought," he says. "My first thought was in 1973 that this I wanted to be a professional golfer." His father, a 27-kilogram golfer, was dubious, he worried the younger Norman to take over his engineering business. But while respecting his father's advice, Norman says that he inherited his lessons. "My father's good at everything he does," he says, "except golf."

In 1977, Norman had earned his first invitation to play in America at Jack Nicklaus's Memorial Tournament in Dublin, Ohio. Lory O'Brien, now president of Nicklaus's Old Course Beer International, recalls that Norman failed in qualify for the final two rounds, and failed it. "I remember that every morning he'd get up early and hit 100 or more balls on the practice tee," O'Brien says.

"He was so determined that that

would not happen again."

In 1979, Norman moved to England for the first of five years as the British Open

Tour, then shifted full-time to the United States in 1984, where he has been twice unable to stop the PGA Tour's money list.

For the Canadian Open, however,

Norman returns as defending champion

holders on already strong field

(his win at the British Open also helps), says tournament director Bill

Paul. "People want to come out and

see more than ever." They will also see

Price, Adinger, 1992 PGA Player of the Year

Pro, Casper, U.S. Open winner Lee Janzen

and even Nicklaus, along with Canadians Richard Zane, Dore Bové and Ben Holtzman.

"I mean to do whatever it takes to

make the Canadian Open a esteemed

title, and that means something," says Price in explaining the event's popularity among the players. "It establishes your credibility worldwide. People remember national open championships."

Sometime later this month, Norman and Price and their wives will dip away for a week to some private place in the Bahamas and go diving, not fishing and whatever else feels good at the time. It is something they used to do frequently, but schedules and celebrity have recently conspired to get in the way. Norman says that, afterward, he will take some time off. "But can a shark ever rest?" That's how he says, "We'll see you guys." And he can't ever get away from golf. "After 32 straight days, I was tired of playing," he says of his recent lull. "I didn't want to even be a golf club for at least a week. And yet, there I was yesterday afternoon with my two children, playing golf out in the backyard." As for his chances at that week's open, he says simply, "I am a better player now than I was a year ago." And a year ago, he won.

JAMES DEACON in Akron

Adding spice to the Prairies



Susanne and Gary Schweihsen in their coriander field; neighbors complain the spice crop smells like dead bugs

Gary Schweihsen's coriander crop has been causing a stir in Saskatchewan's heart of sooty Saskatchewan soil, southwest of Saskatoon. Schweihsen, 36, planted 1,275 acres of the leafy Mediterranean spice plant this year, and everyone in the small farming community is watching his fields with curiosity. His wife, Susanne, 32, says that neighbors occasionally confess to pulling up a few plants to use in their salads. (When the plant is grown for its leaves, rather than its seeds, it leaves an acrid, a pungent-like taste.) But others are less enthusiastic. "Some people don't like the smell, especially in the spring, before it flowers," says Gary. "I've been told it smells like dead bugs." But Schweihsen says that he will keep experimenting with such spice crops as canola, dill, lemongrass (an ingredient in curry) and coriander, the grasshopper's favorite, because they are more profitable than wheat. "I grew wheat at 10 per cent of my acreage last year," he said. "But it amounted to just five per cent of my revenue."

Poor wheat prices are forcing farmers to try new crops. The results are surprising.

seed, onions, beans, spices and even rare plants, pose new challenges of their own. Not only do farmers have to worry about the oftentimes 30 per cent losses in the unusual leafy crops, for the first time in their careers they also have to find markets for the produce themselves, rather than relying on established marketing board to sell their crop. They also have to contend with agricultural policies that are designed to support traditional crops, but that can fluctuate

up or down depending on the weather. As a result, Canadian grain farmers have also become heavily dependent on government subsidies. But even with that support, wheat alone will no longer pay the bills for many families who are carrying large debts for land and equipment. However, the new crops, like lentils, peas, mustard, canary

and canola, are showing promise.

use them increasingly. "We have at least grown high volume, low-value crops in Saskatchewan," says Schweihsen. "But we can't make money doing that any more. In the future, we're going to have to look for high-value crops, even if they'll never match the volumes of wheat."

What has been a long in the West for most of this century, Saskatchewan farmers started growing wheat in 1935, the first year for which records are available. This year, they planted 10 million of the 32 million acres of wheat in Canada. Not only are the Prairies well suited to growing grain crops like wheat, oats and barley, but decades of research have perfected agronomic techniques for those crops so that yields have increased significantly. As a result of land in Saskatchewan was yielding an average of 850 kg of wheat in the bumper crop year of 1951, compared with 465 kg in 1916, as often year when growing conditions were poor. But the price of wheat hasn't kept up with inflation. In 1955, a tonne of wheat sold for a record of \$47. By 1960, it reached an all-time high of \$300. But in 1982, after a decade of declining international subsidy rates, the price had declined to \$123. "Wheat is still the biggest crop, and it's going to be for a long time yet," said Harold Furtach, Saskatchewan's deputy minister of agriculture and food. "But we're actively trying to

encourage the development and adoption of new specialty crops."

With the continuing sharp in wheat prices, many farmers are now switching to the new crops. The census profits in 1982, while an acre of wheat earned an average net income of just \$14.25, canola paid \$327.11 and lentils earned \$207.73 an acre. Some exotic crops paid even more. Consider, for instance, a netting about \$75 an acre now. Attracted by those higher incomes, the number of acres devoted to specialty crops in Saskatchewan has risen steadily in the past decade. In the past year alone, Saskatchewan farmers almost doubled the acreage devoted to specialty crops to 3 million acres, accounting for 47 million acres of canola, the second crop that was first planted in the early 1980s, and which has now become as common as the traditional grains.

Despite the success, most Prairie farmers are still reluctant to try the riskier new crops. Overall, only about 10 per cent of Canada's 180,000 farmers are growing them. Albert Shukla, a University of Saskatchewan agricultural scientist in Saskatoon, who pioneered the development of lentils as a Prairie crop and who has contributed significantly to making Canada the second-largest lentil exporter in the world, says that growing wheat again is easy. "The first farmers talk to us that their 35-year-old sons could probably not only grow a decent crop of wheat," says Shukla. "It requires a minimum level of management to get an average yield." One of the reasons for that, through years of research, scientists have developed a range of herbicides and crop management techniques for the traditional grain crops, but similar research on some of the newer specialty crops is just beginning. Gary Schweihsen, for instance, says that he now grows wheat in some of his fields each year mainly to control weeds, not to make money. When he needs a field with wheat, he knows what herbicides can be used safely to clear the field of weeds. But many conventional herbicides damage the more sensitive specialty crops, like coriander, which is an important member of the grass family. Herbicides for those other specialty crops have not been perfected yet.

Canadian agricultural policies have also discouraged diversification by subsidizing traditional crops and, at times, acting as disincentives for farmers to try new crops. Said Ken Rossouw, an agricultural economist at the University of Saskatchewan: "The policies have created dependencies. It's hard to switch, but it's the first thing about Agriculture that's costing them more than their share to the company store." Robert Bourque, president of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, says that Prairie farmers are now divided into two camp: collectivists, who want to stick to the traditional crops and traditional marketing structures, and free entrepreneurs who are willing to grow whatever they can on their land that will make a profit. Said Bourque, "Too many of our agricultural policies have been designed with a single pur-

pose in mind to grow grain for export." Now that government finances have become as constrained, as say farmers to recognize that the balance of dollars that they have received in export payments in the past decade may not be there in another 10 years.

But Schweihsen's experience illustrates how difficult it can be for a farmer to diversify. First, Schweihsen says, it took him almost 10 years of talking to health food stores and searching through the yellow pages from cities across North America before he found enough spice wholesalers to buy his crops. As well, Schweihsen had to be in a financial position to take on extra risks. By growing canola instead of wheat, Schweihsen is ineligible for the major grain subsidy program which, at effect, guarantees farmers a minimum income. In addition to those extra risks crop insurance for such new specialty crops as coriander is so expensive, Schweihsen says, that he cannot afford it. This summer a hailstorm destroyed all of his canola crop.

Dignity agricultural manager Farman Noor says that more government policies need to be modified to encourage diversification. Schweihsen, however, is not complaining about his flattened canardier. Like many younger farmers, he longs to break the debilitating chains of government dependency—and he is not afraid of assuming extra risk to do it. The only kind of government support

that he would like to see is more research and development on the new crops.

But in Schweihsen's aromatic kitchen, eating lentil cookies as soon as he harvested August sun shines down on his fields. Schweihsen has optimistic about the future of farming. "We've only been here for a hundred years," he said of Saskatchewan. "That's not long enough to have discovered all of the things that we can grow in this place." A few years ago, he planted about 25 different kinds of plants in his garden, hoping to find one or two potential new crops. "In the end, it turned out that the problem was just finding one that would grow, it was choosing one and then a whole bunch of good possibilities." For many winters, when they will be long, but thanks to the Schweihsen experiment and others like it, farmers are learning that what is not the only thing that will grow in the beautiful, harsh extremes of the Canadian Prairies.

BRENDA HALLIGAN in Estevan



Ristow: "It doesn't look good"

WAITING FOR THE SUN

Alfred Ristow, an internationally renowned crop scientist at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, selected his crop almost so that he could no longer see the stalks, because canola is a tall oilseed. In effect, he had to move his laboratory to the back of his head, and said a German canola trader on the telephone how this year's crop was doing. "Everything is at least two weeks late," said Ristow. "We'd used practically the whole month of September without frost and that doesn't happen very often. We haven't given up yet, but it doesn't look good."

Although the crop is late and full because of the plentiful rain that most parts of the Prairies received this summer, some 15 per cent of the area's wheat crop is completely dependent on the weather during the crucial harvest season—swathing—the actual cutting of the wheat—in beginning. Thus, farmers need a week or two of warm, dry weather to ripen the grain as it lies in the field. "We must run a or a heavy frost during this period can turn a bumper crop into a玲珑精巧 only for storage."

Ristow says that the weather is due for a change. "We've had more than six weeks of cool, wet weather," he said. "That's almost unheard of for us." The good news is that as the sun lingers over the Prairies, grain prices are gradually creeping higher. With a sky full of clouds, it is a small silver lining.

B.D.



Waiting for the Tory Gravy Train

BY STEVE BURGESS

The word is that a new marketing campaign for the West Coast will aim to spruce up the image of a familiar product. The who could be seen as a bit of a cliché. Pork-It's Not Just For Easter! Day. More seriously, Mayor Campbell would probably settle for something more discrete, but it could be a fitting theme for the West.

Beneath this, with Brian Mulroney's pull rat tail playing has had a point behind having your tools pulled out with rusty pliers, the B.C. wing of the Progressive Conservative party faced a challenge roughly equivalent to getting Mick Jagger naked. Politicians said that the province's government simply wouldn't have funds around the cashbox, so the prime minister could buy up the loyalty of all his home-town cronies and constituents while the rest of the nation fell in line.

Now that Vancouver's Kim Campbell is Prime Minister, questions remain if the federal government is simply sucking up money from around the country so that the Prime Minister can buy up the loyalty of all his home-town cronies and constituents in a time-honoured process that has worked well for 125 years.

Around Vancouver this summer, these familiar front-yard lemmings stand virtually disengaged as indolent little tykes prepared to bid on defence contracts instead, while their parents peddle for places on the royal commissions that will surely over-crowd on Kitsilano beach. Meanwhile, no one has it that proposals have been floated that would see the transfer of numerous federal agencies to British Columbia, along with the Toronto subway system and the Ottawa Senators' first-round pick.

West Coast Liberals are striking their bagpipes on Chin Chieh's. According to the Liberal argument, a Clackton victory would be the equivalent of a huge federal subsidy to British Columbia's growing entertainment in-

Rumor has it that numerous federal agencies could move to British Columbia, along with the Toronto subway system

dustry. Stand-up comedians, impersonators, carousels and bairnshaws of every variety will enter a Golden Era with Christie or the Prince Mission's Office. It would be like having Ed Sullivan as prime minister almost everyone will be able to do a sensible impression of the 25th.

However, British Columbians' liberal Liberals will have to overcome the normal that has upon the party's provincial wing over the past year. B.C. Liberal Leader Gordon Wilson made Liberal MLA Jack Taitly his House Leader - without informing his wife that it was a full-time position. When stories began circulating that Wilson and Taitly were taking turns playing Party Whip in their spare time, the two denied it. Passmash, however, they denied it again and again until they exhausted their chess board. Following their initials, they announced they were engaged.

Compounding the problem for B.C. Liberals has been a divisive leadership race, as Vancouver Mayor Gordon Campbell seeks to replace Wilson as head of the provincial party. Speculation has been rampant that Mayor Campbell's true reason for seeking the Liberal leadership is to win the heart of

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Tyagi. Some insiders claim that Campbell was swayed by Wilson's stunning transformation from four-eyed policy wonk to legislative Lethbridge and Douglast; perhaps it could work for him as well. If was, the insiders say, Campbell plans to start wearing thick, dark-looking glasses and shave his nature take its course.

The New Democrats face a big problem of their own in British Columbia, due in large part in the fading popularity of the provincial NDP government. Things are said to have got so bad that Mike Harcourt was set to announce his resignation as premier so that he could become president of the Hair Club for Men. The deal fell through when Hair Club officials discovered that Harcourt had falsified his resume, replacing his own photo with a picture of Granddad's dead brother Jerry Grees.

As for the federal New Democrats, recent reports here have suggested that their leader is Audrey McLaughlin although not all of the experts agree on this. To increase her visibility and polish, her image, the NDP hired an American public relations firm. Party sources deny that the firm in question is Lost Causes Inc., the same outfit that is leading the campaign to win the best picture Oscar for Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Last Action Hero*.

As usual, the major parties have raised the crime issue early in the campaign. With Campbell's speech last week proposing changes at the Young Offenders Act has put her clearly on the record concerning lawless and delinquent acts done at home. Her speech is widely seen as a clear attempt to outdo those of her opponents who are too squeamish supporters of excessive violent crime. So far, her supporters have firmly avoided this trap by boldly announcing that they, too, oppose lawlessness.

Like any other year, however, crime has its regional aspect. Several possibilities for those local reality television babblooms at rock hour may be a sure-fire vote-getter in Toronto, but would be irrelevant on the coast, where the revenue meter system can easily make residents feel guilty about their oil-guzzling commutes. That poll makes van less likely to complain about gas taxes, shoddy road repairs and potholes where oceans spawn.

A crime-fighting initiative designed to appeal to B.C. voters might focus instead on people who phone you up on Friday nights in July to announce that the bus has just arrived from Sault Ste. Marie to stay for a week and not make a fare, five-year master bedroom is just for us.

In the end, the battle for votes in British Columbia could be decided by the fifth thing... things like free Senate appointments with the purchase of a Sharpe at any participating T-Block. More than a century after the Last Spike was driven, British Columbians are hoping that the Gravy Train has finally reached the coast, with Kim Campbell steering the whale.

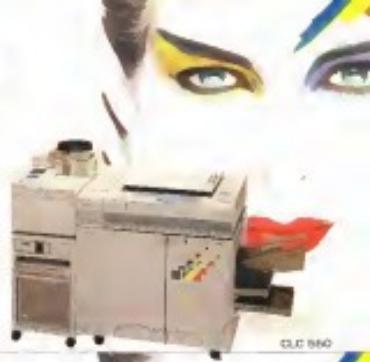
Steve Burgess is a Vancouver writer, aesthetician and philosopher.



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